JUMP COMICS

最悪の依頼人

巻ノ二

NARUTO
-ナルト-

岸本斉史

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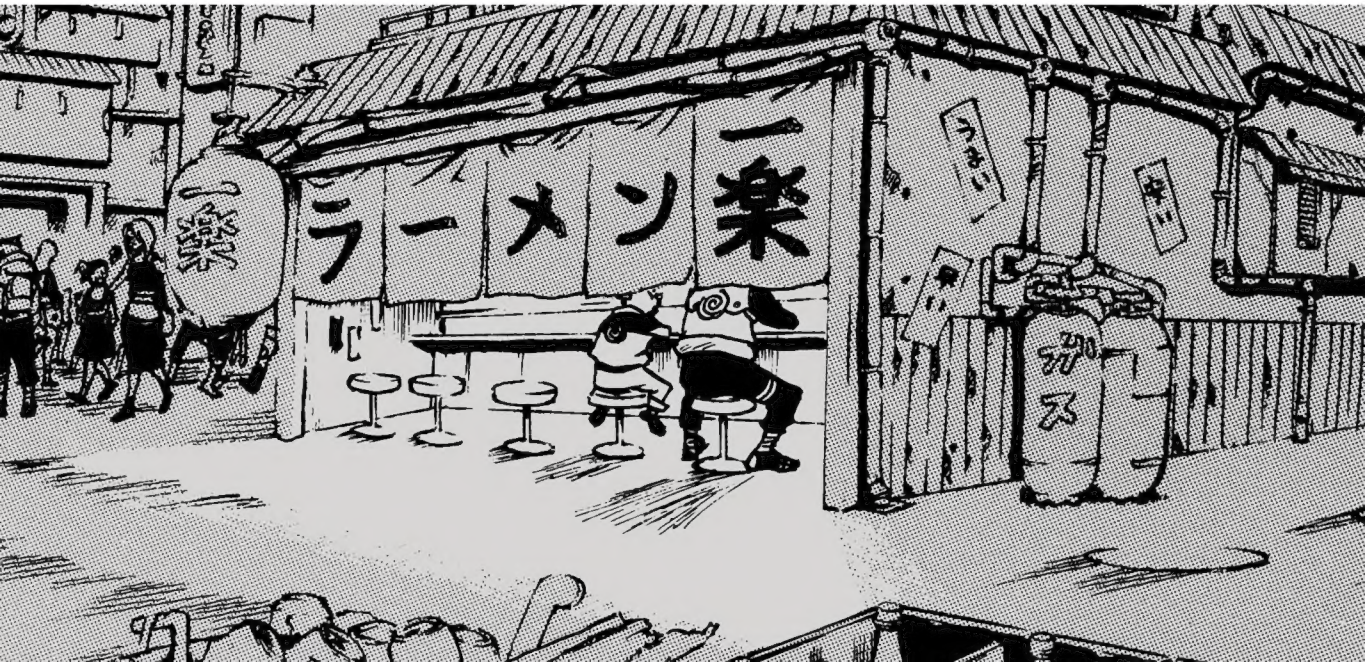
岸本斉史

One day I got a phone call from a relative of mine and got seriously chewed out. Why? The reason was the art I drew of myself in volume one. My aunt saw the picture of me eating ramen, and said "Is he only eating ramen *again?!* Every time you came over to my house, you demanded instant noodles instead of the home-cooked meal I had ready for you! You'd better be getting your vegetables!" Don't worry, auntie—I *am* eating my vegetables. (P.S. They just came out with instant noodles in "Cheese Curry Flavor." It's really tasty.)

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2000

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** ("mechanism"). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.



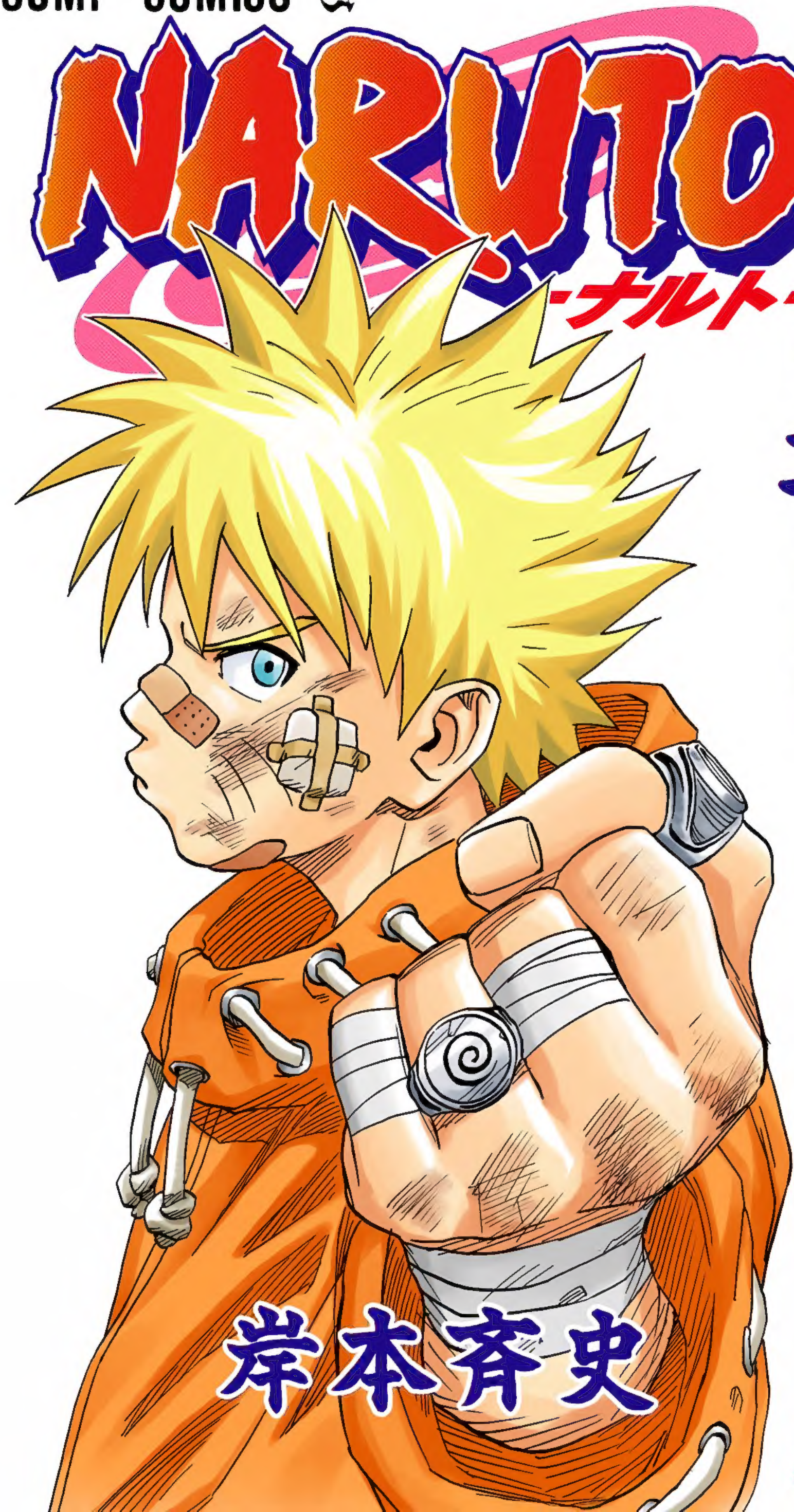
JUMP COMICS

NARUTO

-ナルト-

巻ノ一

最悪の依頼人



岸本斉史

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主な登場人物

うずまきナルト

うちはサスケ

春野サクラ

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前巻のあらすじ

THE STORY SO FAR...

Twelve years ago, a giant fox demon attacked the ninja village of Konohagakure, until the Hokage, the village champion, managed to defeat it by sealing its soul into the body of a baby boy. Now that boy, Uzumaki Naruto, has grown up and become a ninja-in-training, like his classmates Sasuke and Sakura. Forced to work as a team, the three ninjas received a strange assignment: steal a bell from the belt of their teacher Kakashi. But they failed...and now Kakashi has told them *to give up their hopes of ever being ninja!*

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NARUTO
ーナルトー

巻ノニ

最悪の依頼人

もくじ

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...WILL EVER BE A NINJA!

GIVE IT UP. NOT ONE OF THE THREE OF YOU...

ナンバー 8：ふごうかくだからだってんだ!!

YOU FAILED!!

FLIP

IT'S A ROSTER OF ALL OF KAKASHI'S PREVIOUS STUDENTS AMONG THE JUNIOR-LEVEL SHINOBI— WHO PASSED AND WHO FAILED.

DOES IT WORRY YOU?

HERE!!

ス...

IT ..... IT SAYS...!

!!

GROUP SEVEN— NARUTO AND THE OTHERS... WHAT KIND OF TEACHER DID YOU ASSIGN THEM, LORD HOKAGE?

IS HE VERY STRICT?

YOU INVITED ME TO LUNCH BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO LEARN SOMETHING, RIGHT, IRUKA? WHAT IS IT?

.....WHO ...KAKASHI?

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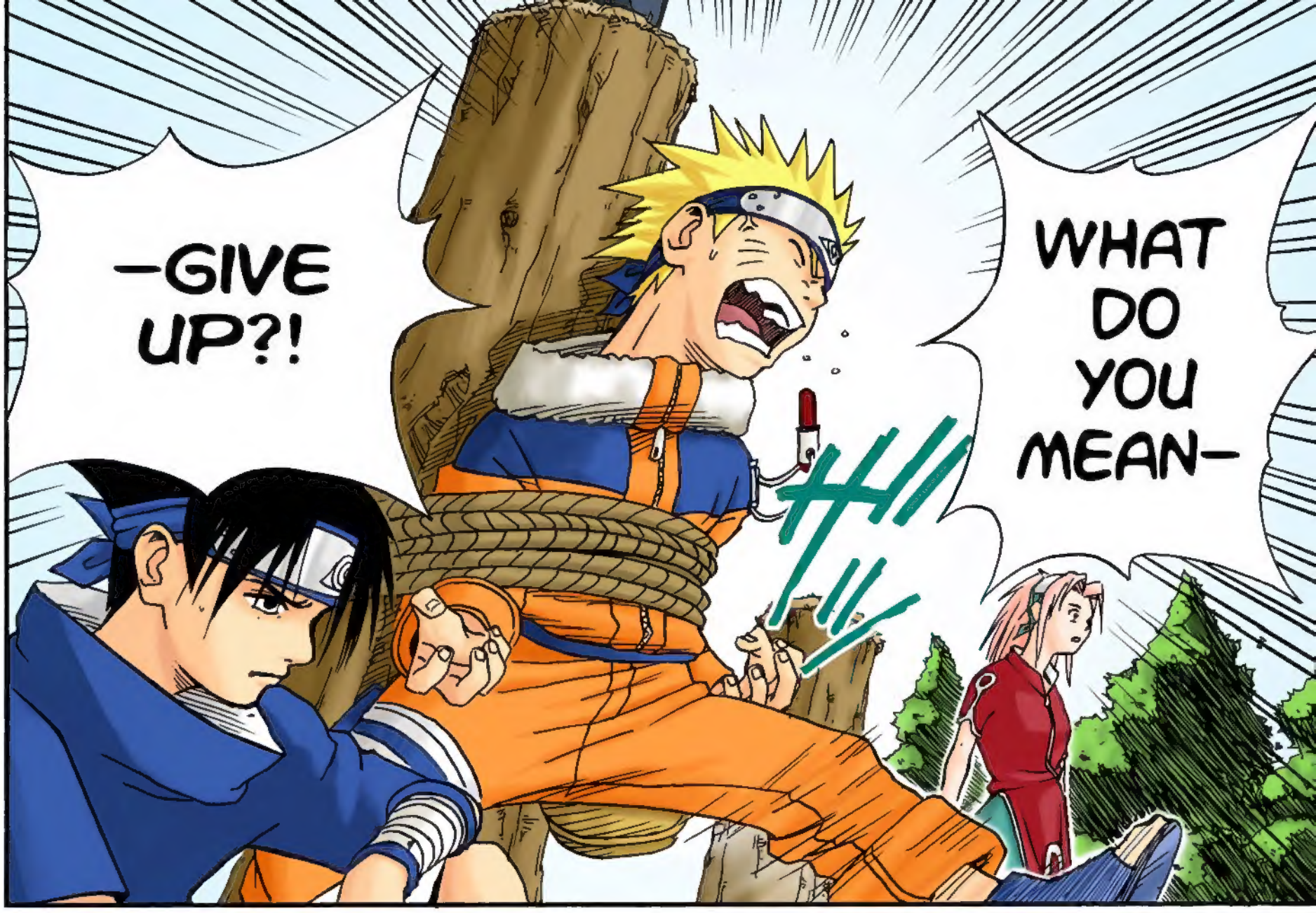

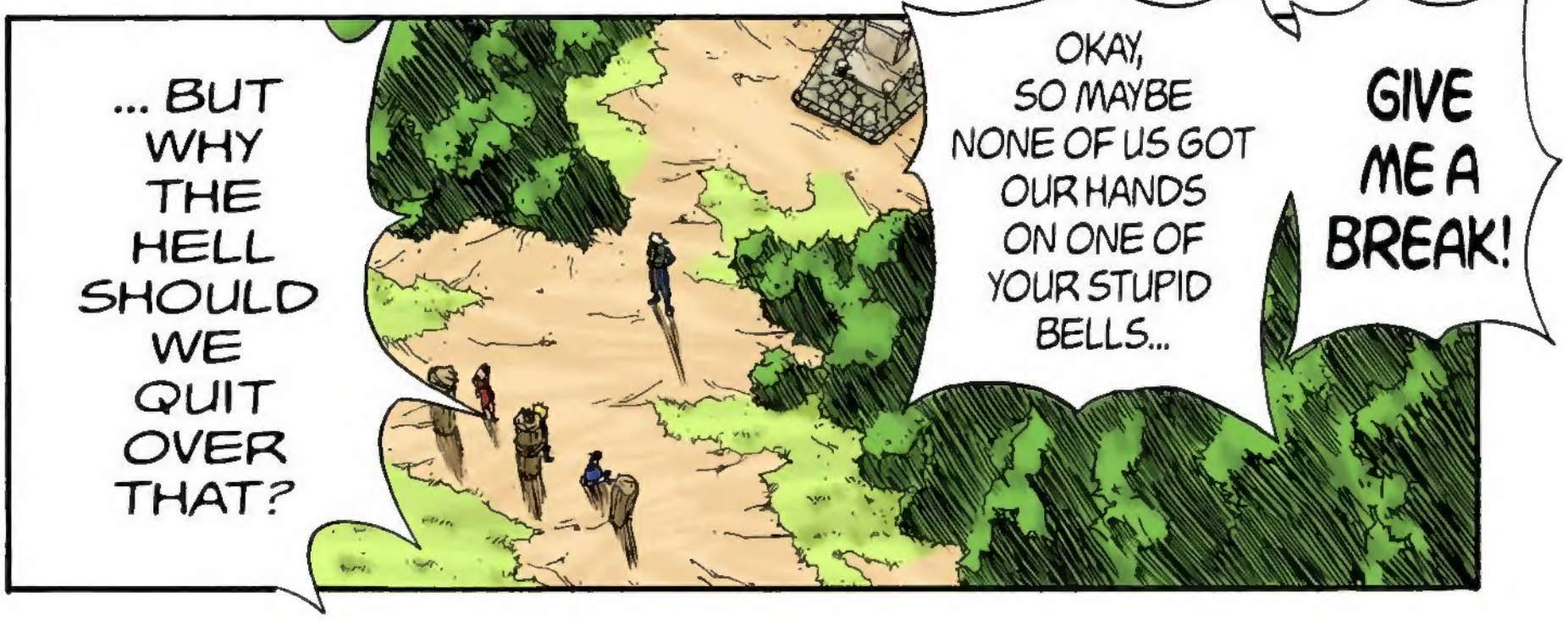

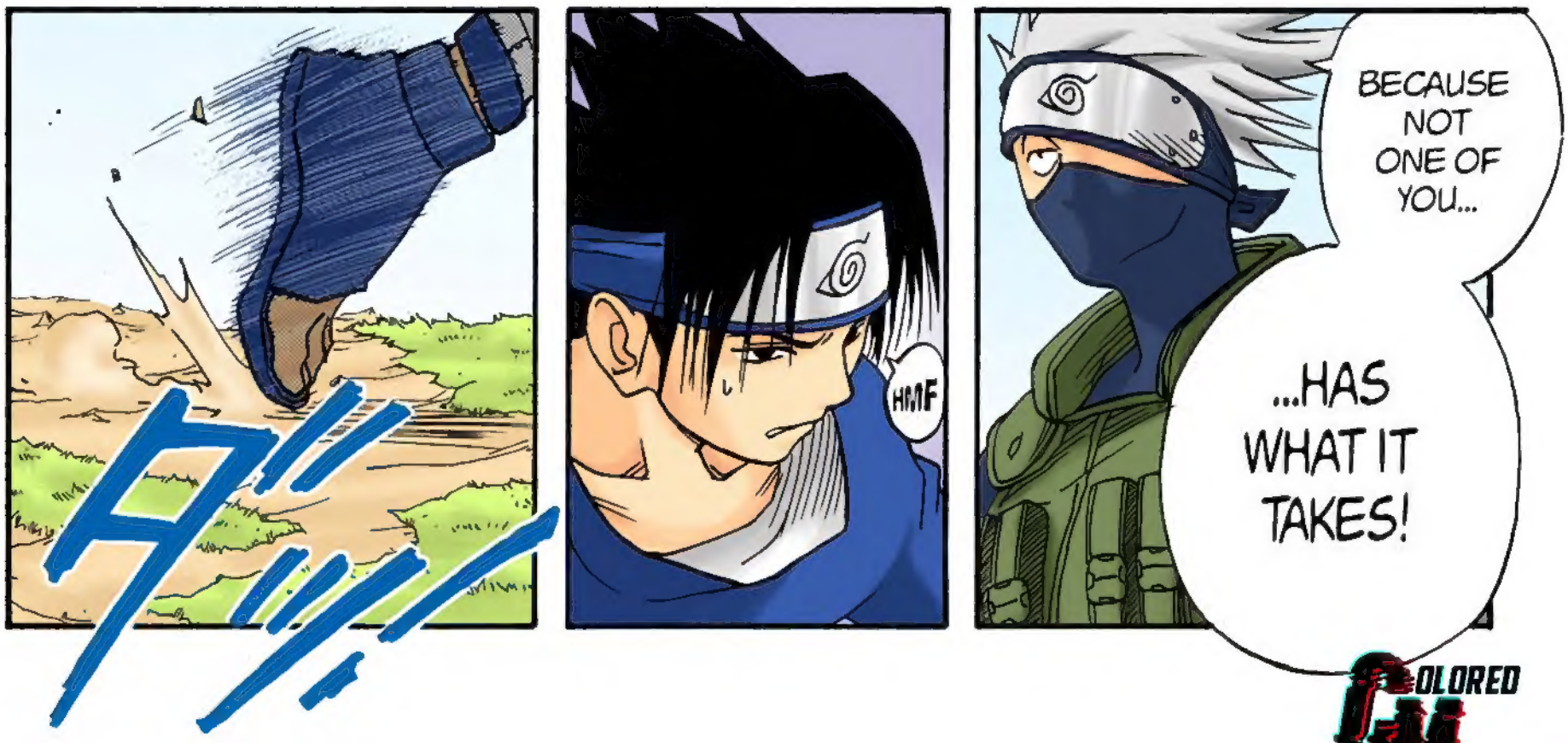

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SASUKE!!

HUNH?!

WHAT YOU ARE IS A TRIO OF SPOILED BRATS...

GET OFF OF HIM!

DON'T STEP ON SASUKE!

!!

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DID YOU EVEN STOP TO WONDER FOR ONE MINUTE...

...WHY YOU WERE DIVIDED INTO TEAMS?

ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE FUN OF THE SHINOBI WITH YOUR BEHAVIOR?

WELL, ARE YOU?

SO YOU MISSED THE ENTIRE POINT OF THE EXERCISE.

OBVIOUSLY NOT.

...EXCUSE ME?

UHH...

!

BUT...

...YOU HAVEN'T EXPLAINED WHAT IT IS!

AND THAT POINT DETERMINES WHETHER OR NOT YOU WOULD SUCCEED.

OF COURSE.

IT HAD A POINT...!?

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AW, COME ON, ALREADY! TELL US!!!

.....

...I DON'T BELIEVE THIS.

...TEAM-WORK.

IT'S...

...BUT... WAIT A MINUTE! ...と...

IF THE THREE OF YOU HAD COME AT ME... TOGETHER... YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TAKE THE BELLS.

!

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EVEN IF WE'D WORKED TOGETHER, ONE OF US STILL WOULD HAVE HAD TO GO WITHOUT LUNCH.

YOU'RE PREACHING TEAMWORK, BUT YOU PLAYED US AGAINST EACH OTHER!

STOMP

IF WE WERE EXPECTED TO FUNCTION AS A TEAM, WHY DID YOU ONLY HAVE TWO BELLS?

WHAT--?!

!!

OF COURSE. THIS TASK WAS DESIGNED TO CAUSE DISSENSION IN YOUR RANKS.

...AND PROPOSE TO THE OTHERS THAT YOU WORK TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD OF ALL.

...WOULD SET ASIDE YOUR INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS....

THE SITUATION WAS SET UP TO REVEAL WHICH OF YOU...

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!!

...WHILE YOU FOCUSED YOUR ATTENTION ON SASUKE, THOUGH YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHERE HE WAS.

...YOU, SAKURA, IGNORED NARUTO, WHO WAS RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU...

INSTEAD OF WHICH...

...AND HE WAS BETTER OFF PLAYING SOLO.

AND SASUKE HAD ALREADY DECIDED THAT THE OTHER TWO JUST GOT IN HIS WAY...

NARUTO TRIED TO DO SINGLE-HANDEDLY WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE WORK OF ALL THREE!

WHAT IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT NOW IS TEAMWORK!

YOU ARE A TEAM! LEARN TO ACT AS ONE!

YES, IT'S NECESSARY FOR NINJA TO HAVE INDIVIDUAL SKILLS, BUT...

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YOU MIGHT AS WELL KILL THEM YOURSELF.

!

?

.....HERE'S AN EXAMPLE....

KRUNCH

MAKING A PLAY AS AN INDIVIDUAL IS BAD FOR THE TEAM AND EXPOSES YOUR COMRADES TO UNNECESSARY DANGER.

WHAT!!?

!!

ドロン

OR SASUKE DIES.

!!!!

SAKURA! KILL NARUTO.

KZING

.....

TAK

THE DAY COULD COME...

GIVE ME A HEART ATTACK だん WHY だ DON'T あ YOU?!

OH MAN...

WHEN YOU ARE ON A MISSION, YOUR LIVES WILL ALWAYS BE ON THE LINE.

...WHEN ONE OF YOU MAY BE TAKEN HOSTAGE, AND YOU'RE FORCED TO MAKE SUCH A CHOICE.

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THAT'S IT! I JUST MADE UP MY MIND!

HEROES OF OUR VILLAGE.

NINJA.

LOOK AT THE MARKER.. ALL THE NAMES CARVED IN THE STONE.

HMPH...

SHF'

I'M NOT GONNA THROW MY LIFE AWAY! I WANT TO BE LIKE THEM— A HERO!

THERE'S WHERE I WANT MY NAME TO GO!

!

COME ON! COME ON!

...

WHAT KIND OF HEROES ARE THEY?

REALLY?

...BUT THE ONES LISTED THERE AREN'T JUST ANY HEROES.....

-;AHEM!;-

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THE DEAD KIND. THEY DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

!!!

IT INCLUDES THE NAMES OF MY BEST FRIENDS.

THIS IS A MEMORIAL.

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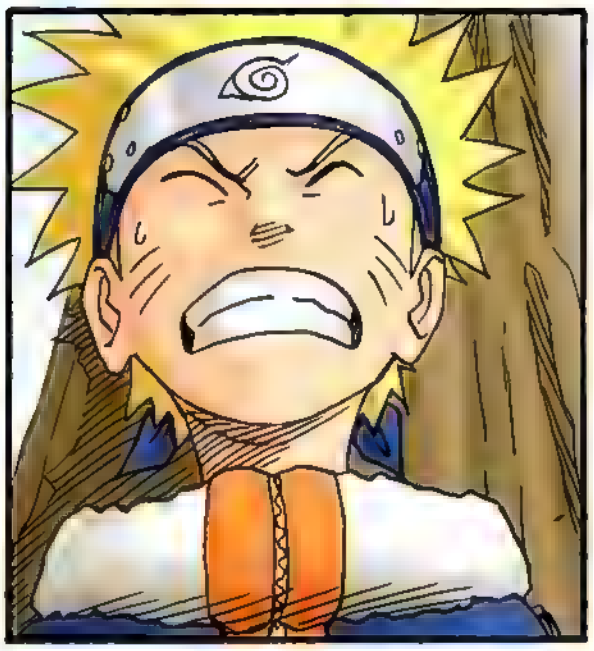

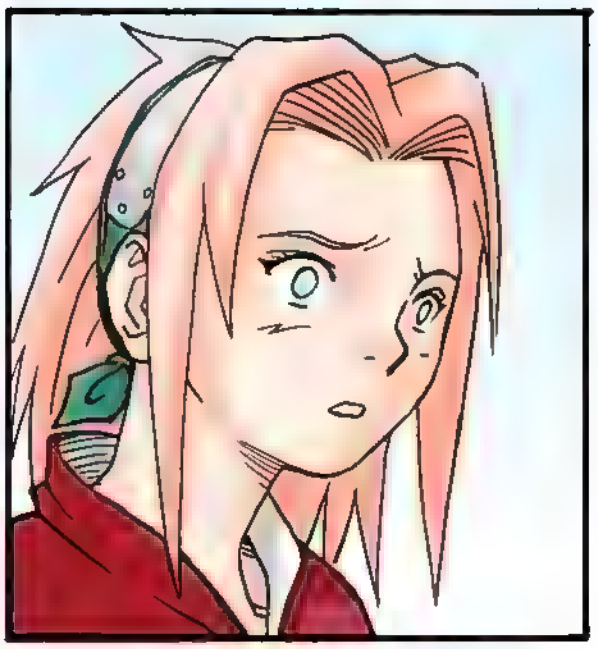

BUT NO SHARING WITH NARUTO. HE GOES HUNGRY.

IF YOU'RE PREPARED TO CONTINUE, YOU MAY EAT ONE OF THE BENTO BOXES.

WHY?

....PAY ATTENTION...! I'M GIVING YOU ALL ONE LAST CHANCE.

ONE THAT WILL BE FAR MORE DIFFICULT THAN OUR LAST LITTLE GAME WITH THE BELLS.

DO YOU UNDER-STAND?

MY WORD IS LAW.

IF EITHER OF YOU FEEDS HIM, YOU FAIL THE TEST RIGHT THERE.

HE BROUGHT IT ON HIMSELF WHEN HE TRIED TO SNEAK LUNCH FOR HIMSELF.

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HEY, THIS'LL BE A BREEZE. I CAN GO WITHOUT LUNCH... NO PROBLEM.

RRRRUMBLE

ギュルル

.....

!!!

!!

HERE.

スッ

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YOU'RE NO GOOD TO ME IF YOU'RE JUST GOING TO BE A LIABILITY.

BU...BUT SASUKE, MASTER KAKASHI TOLD US --!!

I'M NOT WORRIED. HE'S PROBABLY MILES AWAY BY NOW. AND WE'LL ALL NEED OUR STRENGTH IF WE'RE GOING TO WORK TOGETHER TO GET THOSE BELLS.

!!

ｸﾝ

.....

サ。SASUKE...ケ君ん...

.....

ちゃサクラ SAKURA...ん...

COLORED NARUTO MANGA.COM

THANKS...

HEH-HEH... UHH...

THIS... THIS IS...

忍道

上忍帖

AND WHEN HIS STUDENTS COME TO HIM, THEY ARE UTTERLY NAÏVE...

I CAN SEE THAT... BUT...

YES... THERE'S NO DENYING THAT KAKASHI IS EXTREMELY STRICT...

YES. KAKASHI NEVER PASSES ANYONE. EVER...

NO ONE?

NO ONE AT ALL...?

忍道

上忍帖

COLORED MANGA.COM

WHAT THE HECK?!

YOU...

キャあああああ

AAGHK-!

!

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...PASS!
♡
トロ!!
.....
HUNH?
.....
EH...?!
-:WINK!:-
COLORED
MANGA.COM

UP UNTIL NOW, ALL ANY OF YOU HAVE DONE IS LISTEN UNQUESTIONINGLY TO EVERYTHING I SAY...

...LIKE MINDLESS, LITTLE DRONES.

?

UMMM... HOW?

YOU THREE HAVE JUST TAKEN A GIANT STEP FORWARD.

WE PASS!?

BUT... WHY?!

IN A NINJA'S WORLD, THOSE WHO VIOLATE THE RULES AND FAIL TO FOLLOW ORDERS...

...ARE LOWER THAN GARBAGE.

A TRUE SHINOBI SEEKS FOR THE HIDDEN MEANINGS WITHIN HIDDEN MEANINGS.

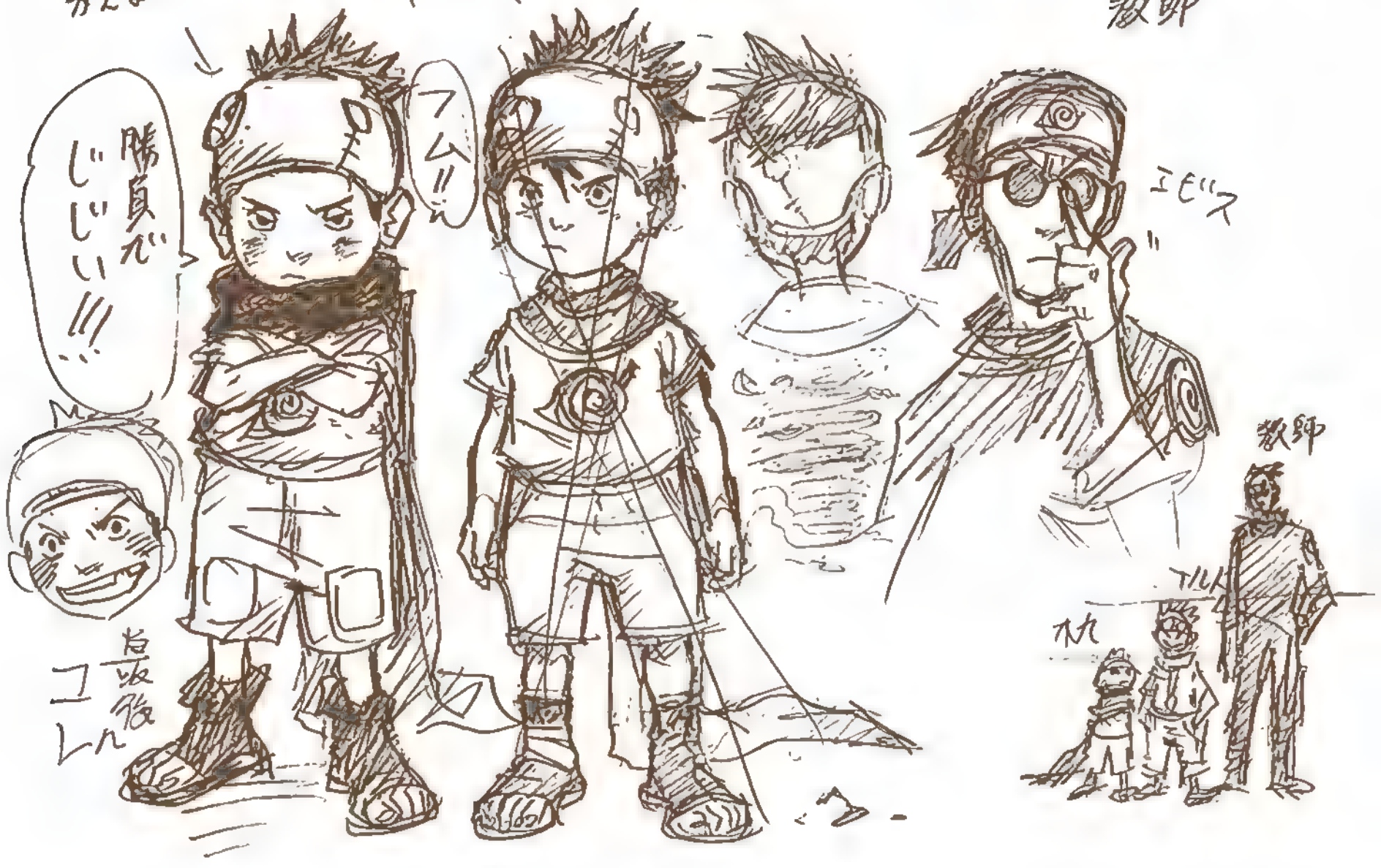
ARE EVEN LOWER THAN THAT!

HOWEVER...

...THOSE WHO DO NOT CARE FOR AND SUPPORT THEIR PRECIOUS COMRADES...

OLORED
ANGA.COM

カッ
...COOL!
イイ…
THAT'S... KIND OF...
BLUSH
フン/
.....
OH!
NINJA!
NINJA!
NINJA!
いえ～
I... I DID IT! I DID IT! I'M A NINJA!
THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY, TEAM SEVEN. YOUR DUTIES WILL COMMENCE TOMORROW!!!
キョビ!!
THIS EXERCISE IS NOW CONCLUDED.
YOU ALL PASS!!
UH...HEY, GUYS? I'M STILL TIED UP HERE... GUYS?!!
NOW THAT NARUTO HAS REALIZED HIS LIFELONG DREAM OF BECOMING A NINJA... WHAT KIND OF DUTIES LIE AHEAD?! ONLY TIME— AND THE NEXT CHAPTER—WILL TELL!!
ぴた
しゃーんなろー!!
サッ!
LET'S GO HOME.
ハァ
ばた



THE MAKING OF NARUTO:
KONOHAMARU & EBISU

These were my first sketches of Konohamaru and his teacher, Ebisu (see **Naruto** Vol. 1). I remember really struggling with Konohamaru's design. He was supposed to be a little punk, smaller than Naruto, but he kept coming out looking like Naruto no matter what I tried. I tried drawing a big-eyed kid, but this didn't work either. It always turned out like a face I'd seen somewhere before. Eventually, I drew an angry-looking face with small eyes, and somehow I knew I'd found it!

At that point I decided that Ebisu would look like the sketch above. I like Ebisu's design because he's like me, somehow…

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ナンバー

9・最悪の依頼人

さいあく　いらいにん

THE WORST CLiENT

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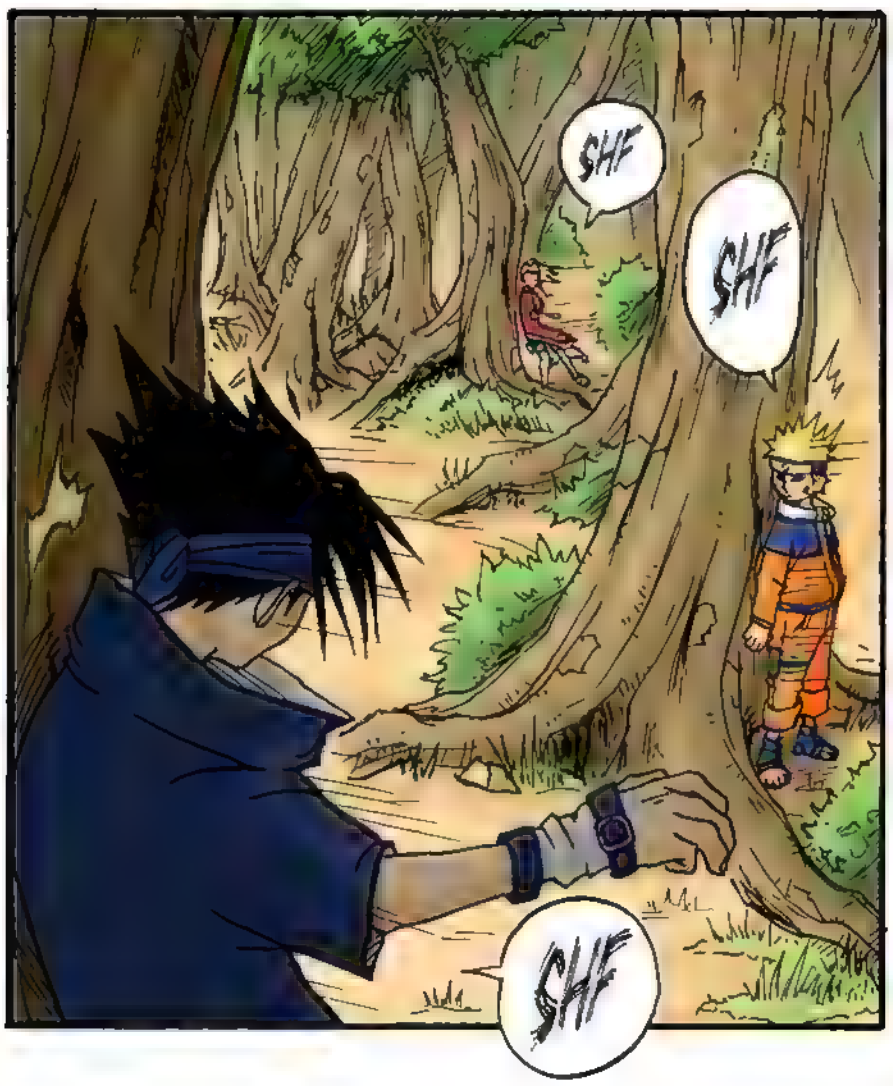

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HOW FAR AWAY IS THE TARGET?

FIVE METERS AND CLOSING! SO... HOW MUCH LONGER ARE WE GONNA WAIT?!

I'M IN POSITION.

SO AM I.

ALL RIGHT!

GO!

HAI-YAAAAH!

!!

!!

!!

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GOTCHA!!!

MEEE-OOOW!!!

...IS ACCOMPLISHED!

GOOD! THEN "MISSION FIND THE MISSING PET"...

TARGET CONFIRMED.

ガリガリ

イテテテ イダってばヤ!!

REMEMBER. OUR QUARRY HAS A RIBBON ON ITS RIGHT EAR THAT SAYS "TIGER"... MAKE SURE THERE'S NO MISTAKE.

MEEE-OOOW!!!

LADY SHIJIMI— WHOSE NAME MEANS LITTLE CLAM— WIFE OF THE RULER OF THE LAND OF FIRE... SHOWN HERE WITH TIGER.

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WITH THAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO AT HOME, CAN YOU BLAME HIM FOR RUNNING AWAY?

OH, MAN!!! WHAT A NIGHTMARE. HOW DOES THAT POOR, DUMB CAT PUT UP WITH IT?

POOR TIGER... GOOD LITTLE KITTY-KITTY... I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU, I COULD HAVE DIED!

皆さんガンバ

任務受付はこちらまで

TO RUN ERRANDS TO THE NEIGHBORING VILLAGE...

TO HELP DIG SWEET POTATOES.....

HMM... TO BABY-SIT FOR THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS...

NOW, THE NEXT ASSIGNMENT FOR KAKASHI'S TEAM SEVEN WILL BE...

HE'S GOT A POINT...

...HE'S SUCH A PAIN!!!

OH...

SIGH... BE GRATEFUL FOR WHAT YOU CAN GET!

GIVE US SOMETHING DIFFERENT TO DO. SOMETHING IMPORTANT! SOMETHING AMAZING!!!

NO WAY!! NO THANK YOU--!! BORRRING!!!

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WE'VE DONE TONS OF SMALL STUFF. CAN'T WE GET SOME ACTION?!!

EVERYONE STARTS OUT DOING GRUNT WORK. IT'S WHERE YOU GET EXPERIENCE, SO YOU CAN WORK YOUR WAY UP TO THE BIGGER THINGS.

DON'T BE A FOOL--!! YOU'RE ONLY A BEGINNER!

ふ～ん やれやれ

カダ

FOR EVERYTHING FROM BABYSITTERS TO ASSASSINATION.

YOU SEE, EVERY DAY, OUR VILLAGE RECEIVES MANY REQUESTS...

APPARENTLY NARUTO NEEDS AN EXPLANATION OF JUST WHAT THESE DUTIES ARE...

ｺﾞﾁ!!

NARUTO, THAT'S ENOUGH. KNOCK IT OFF!

... AND SORT THEM INTO CATEGORIES FROM A TO D, BASED ON THE DEGREE OF SKILL THEY REQUIRE.

WE TAKE THAT TREMENDOUS VARIETY...

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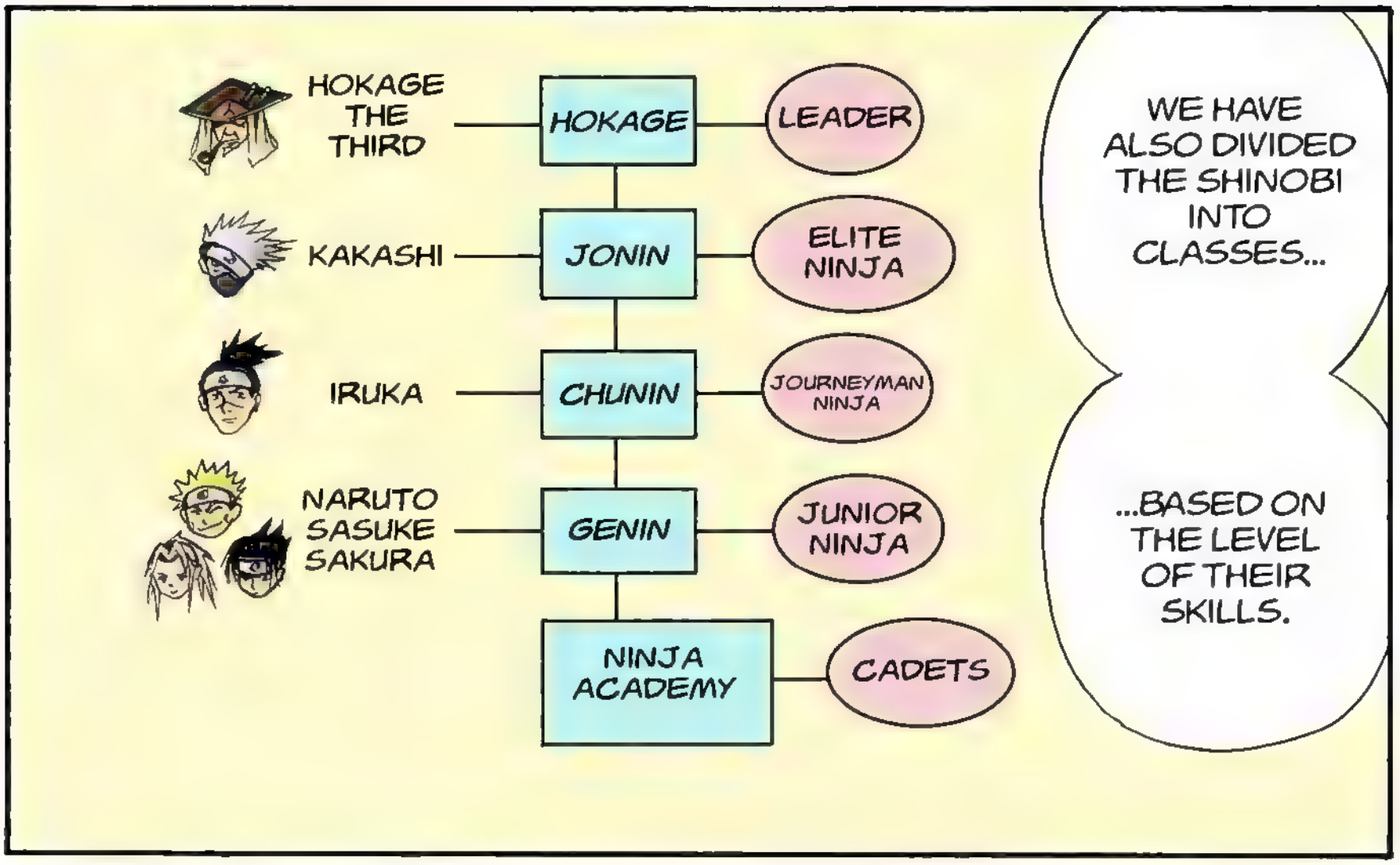
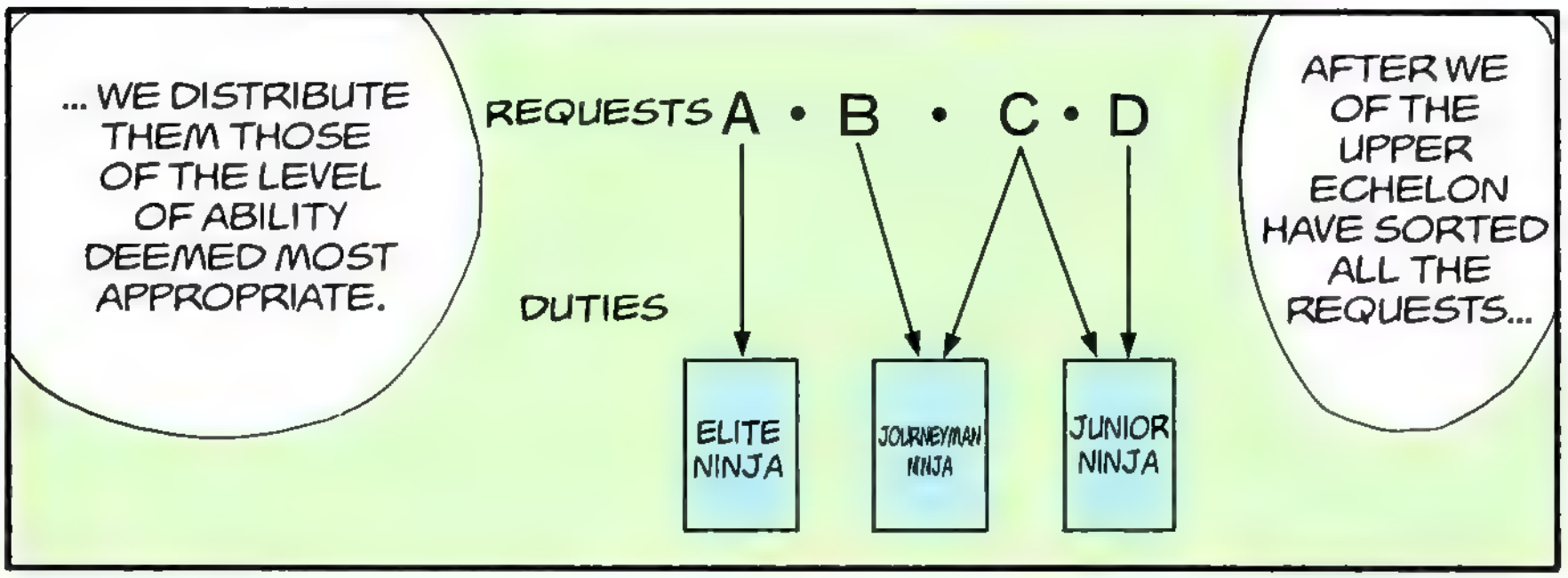
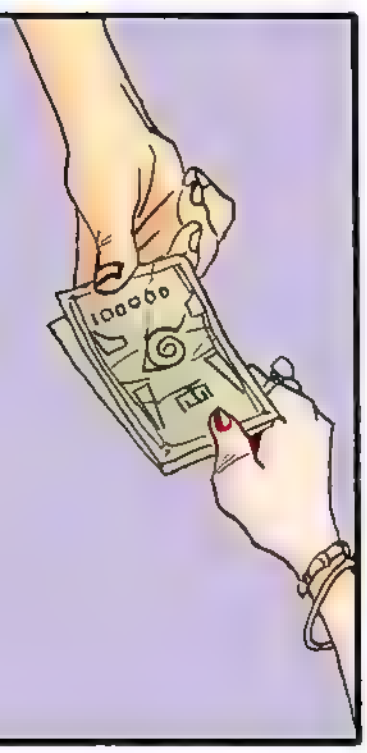
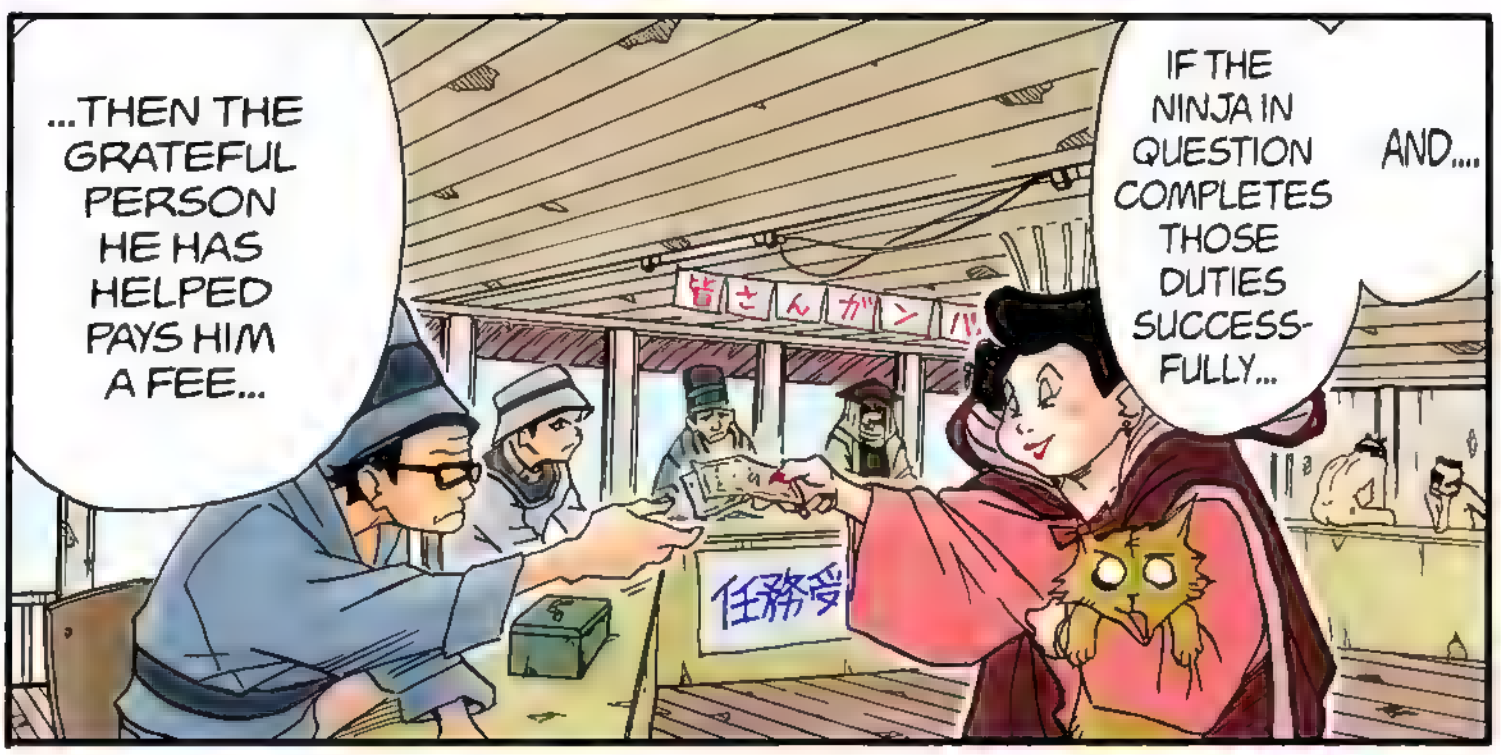



... WE DISTRIBUTE THEM THOSE OF THE LEVEL OF ABILITY DEEMED MOST APPROPRIATE.
REQUESTS A • B • C • D
DUTIES
ELITE NINJA
JOURNEYMAN NINJA
JUNIOR NINJA
AFTER WE OF THE UPPER ECHELON HAVE SORTED ALL THE REQUESTS...




...THEN THE GRATEFUL PERSON HE HAS HELPED PAYS HIM A FEE...
IF THE NINJA IN QUESTION COMPLETES THOSE DUTIES SUCCESS-FULLY...
AND....
任務受

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ARE YOU LISTENING?

...

HMM... I HAD PORK RAMEN FOR LUNCH YESTERDAY... SO I THINK I'LL HAVE MISO RAMEN TODAY.

... LEVEL D TASKS ARE THE BEST YOU COULD ASPIRE TO.

THUS FAR, THE THREE OF YOU HAVE ONLY JUST ATTAINED THE LOWEST RANK...

... THE OLD MAN THINKS I AM!

BUT IT'S NOT FAIR. THERE'S MORE TO ME THAN THE TROUBLE-MAKING SCREWUP...

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT!

ALL THE OLD FART EVER DOES IS APOLOGIZE AND THEN GIVE ME A LECTURE.

I... I'M SORRY.

火

.....

-;SIGH;- I AM GOING TO BE IN SO MUCH TROUBLE FOR THIS LATER.

...

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!

!

SINCE YOU PUT IT THAT WAY....

VERY WELL.

EH?

ALL RIGHT!!

....THE PROTECTION OF A CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL...

I WILL PERMIT YOU TO ATTEMPT A C GRADE TASK—USUALLY RESERVED FOR SHINOBI OF THE JOURNEYMAN LEVEL...

...HEH HEH.... MISCHIEF-MAKING HAS BEEN HIS ONLY MEANS OF SELF-EXPRESSION...

PLEASE INVITE HIM IN...

COMPOSE YOURSELF. I'LL PERFORM THE INTRODUCTIONS STRAIGHTAWAY.

WHO IS IT? SOME GREAT LORD? THE *DAIMYO*!? A PRINCESS!?

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THEY LOOK LIKE A BUNCH OF WET-NOSED BRATS.

コツ コツ コツ

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

ガラ

IT'S A JOKE RIGHT? YOU KIDS AREN'T REALLY NINJA, ARE YOU?

... THE MIDGET. HE'S GOT THE FACE OF AN IMBECILE.

ESPECIALLY...

プファ

WHO'D YOU MEAN? WHICH MIDGET? WHICH IMBECI... -?!-

HA-HA!

キョロ

キョロ

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WRONG. NO KILLING THE OLD MAN YOU'VE BEEN ASSIGNED TO PROTECT.

I'LL KILL HIM!!!!

BA BA

!

UNTIL I AM SAFELY BACK IN MY OWN COUNTRY, WHERE I'LL BE COMPLETING MY NEXT BRIDGE, YOU'LL ALL BE EXPECTED TO PROTECT ME... EVEN IF IT COSTS YOU YOUR LIVES!

I AM TAZUNA, A BRIDGE BUILDER OF ULTIMATE RENOWN..

おみやげ

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WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT?

ALL RIGHT! ROAD TRIP!!

THERE'S NO CALL FOR CONCERN. I'M AN ELITE NINJA, AND I'LL BE ALONG, TOO...

-;SIGH;-

AM I REALLY EXPECTED TO PLACE MY LIFE IN THE HANDS OF THIS FOOL?

キョロキョロ

THIS'LL BE THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I'VE EVER BEEN OUTSIDE OF THE VILLAGE!

ESPECIALLY NOT A REALLY GOOD ONE, LIKE ME!

LISTEN, YOU OLD GEEZER! YOU DON'T MESS WITH NINJA. EVER.

AND I'M NOT GONNA LET HIM GIVE ME ANY CRAP.

THIS GUY HAS GOT TO BE THE WORST CLIENT IN THE HISTORY OF OUR VILLAGE.

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IT'S UZUMAKI NARUTO.

I AM THE CREAM OF THE ELITE. IN FACT, ONE DAY I'M GONNA BE THE NEXT LORD HOKAGE! SO REMEMBER MY NAME.

AND WHEN I BECOME HOKAGE, YOU'RE GONNA WISH YOU WERE A LOT MORE RESPECTFUL TO ME RIGHT NOW!!!

I AM DOING ALL THE RIGHT THINGS, AND I'M DOING THEM FAST.

WELL, YOU'RE OLD AND STUPID!

I DON'T THINK SOMEONE LIKE YOU HAS IT IN HIM.

HOKAGE, EH? THE LORD OF YOUR VILLAGE? THE BEST THERE IS?

!

NOT EVEN IF YOU DID BECOME HOKAGE.

RESPECT YOU? I DON'T THINK SO.

COLORED MANGA.COM

I SAID NO, YOU LITTLE DUNCE.

YOU ARE DEAD!!!

ガッ

.....

YOU COME FROM THE LAND OF THE WAVES, RIGHT?

WHAT NOW?

UM, MR. TAZUNA...?

WHAT OF IT?

... MOST OTHER LANDS HAVE THEIR OWN HIDDEN VILLAGE WHERE A NINJA CLAN RESIDES.

NO. NOT IN THE LAND OF THE WAVES.

BUT, AS A GENERAL RULE, EVEN WITH ALL THE DIFFERENCES THAT EXIST IN LOCAL CUSTOMS AND CULTURES...

ARE THERE NINJA IN THAT COUNTRY TOO?

UM.... MASTER KAKASHI...

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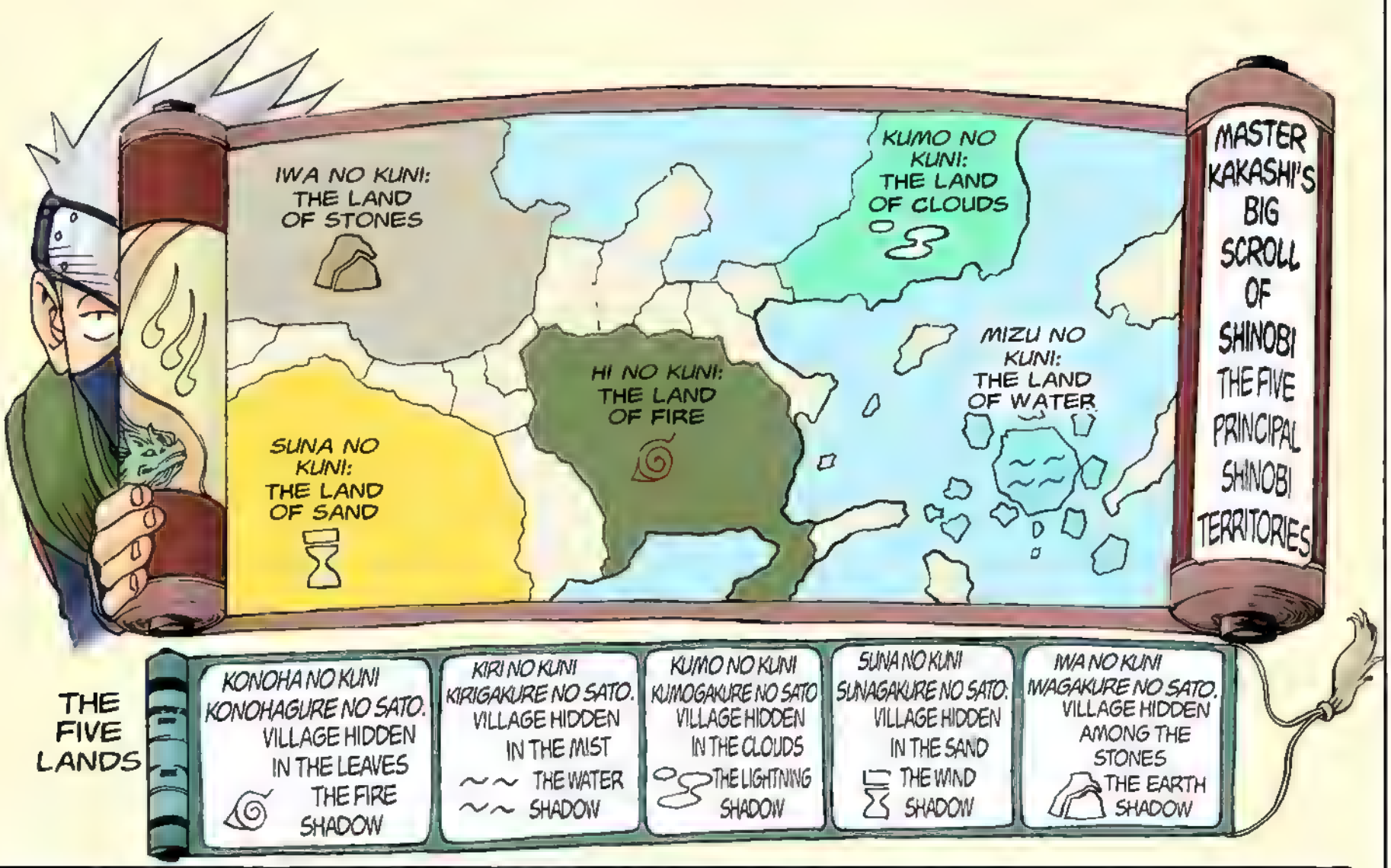
IWA NO KUNI: THE LAND OF STONES
KUMO NO KUNI: THE LAND OF CLOUDS
HI NO KUNI: THE LAND OF FIRE
MIZU NO KUNI: THE LAND OF WATER
SUNA NO KUNI: THE LAND OF SAND
MASTER KAKASHI'S BIG SCROLL OF SHINOBI THE FIVE PRINCIPAL SHINOBI TERRITORIES
THE FIVE LANDS
KONOHA NO KUNI
KONOHAGURE NO SATO.
VILLAGE HIDDEN IN THE LEAVES
THE FIRE SHADOW
KIRI NO KUNI
KIRIGAKURE NO SATO.
VILLAGE HIDDEN IN THE MIST
THE WATER SHADOW
KUMO NO KUNI
KUMOGAKURE NO SATO
VILLAGE HIDDEN IN THE CLOUDS
THE LIGHTNING SHADOW
SUNA NO KUNI
SUNAGAKURE NO SATO.
VILLAGE HIDDEN IN THE SAND
THE WIND SHADOW
IWA NO KUNI
IWAGAKURE NO SATO.
VILLAGE HIDDEN AMONG THE STONES
THE EARTH SHADOW

FOR MOST OF THE COUNTRIES ON THIS CONTINENT, THE NINJA VILLAGES SERVE AS THE MILITARY FORCE. THEY PROTECT THEIR OWN PEOPLE AND HANDLE THE ONGOING RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES! YET, THE VILLAGES DO NOT ANSWER TO THE RULERS OF THEIR NATIVE COUNTRIES. INSTEAD, THEY ARE ON AN EQUAL FOOTING WITH THE GOVERNMENT. IN THE CASE OF VERY SMALL ISLAND NATIONS WHERE AN INVASION WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO MOUNT, A NINJA VILLAGE IS REGARDED AS UNNECESSARY. AMONG THE VARIOUS NINJA VILLAGES, IN PARTICULAR, THOSE LOCATED IN THE LANDS OF KONOHA, KIRI, KUMO, KUMO, SUNA AND IWA ARE LARGE–AND THEIR STRENGTH IS IMMENSE. THOSE ARE CALLED THE FIVE GREAT LANDS OF SHINOBI. THEY ARE ALSO THE ONLY PLACES WHERE THE SHINOBI LEADER CALLS HIMSELF A KAGE, OR SHADOW...

...THE ULTIMATE COMMANDERS OF ALL THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF SHINOBI THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.
THOSE LEGENDARY LEADERS, HOKAGE, MIZUKAGE, RAIKAGE, KAZEKAGE, AND TSUCHIKAGE ARE KNOWN TO NINJA EVERYWHERE AS THE FIVE SHADOWS...
影の
忍

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YOU OBVIOUSLY DON'T REALLY THINK SO.

ギ

REALLY? LORD HOKAGE IS SO AMAZING!

I DON'T SEE ANYTHING GREAT ABOUT THAT OLD FART WHO'S ALWAYS LECTURING US!

.....

.....!

ピ

SO I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ENCOUNTERING ANY FOREIGN SHINOBI...?

THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. YOU WON'T FACE ANY DUELS WITH NINJA FROM OTHER CLANS WHILE YOU'RE HANDLING C LEVEL DUTIES.

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OF COURSE NOT! HA- HA- HA!

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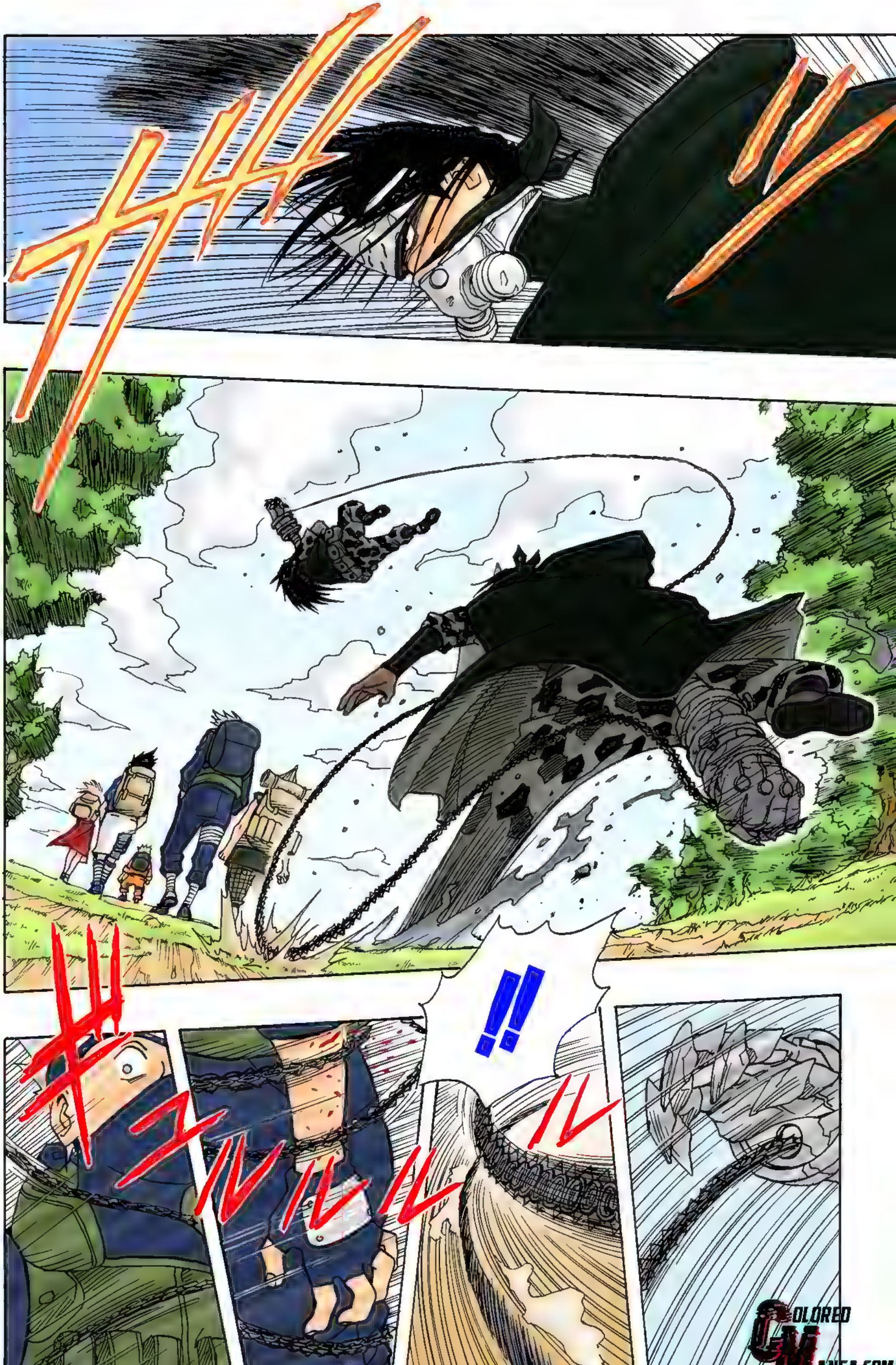
!!
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WHAT!?

!

WHAT TH---?!

EH--?!

ONE LITTLE PIGGY.

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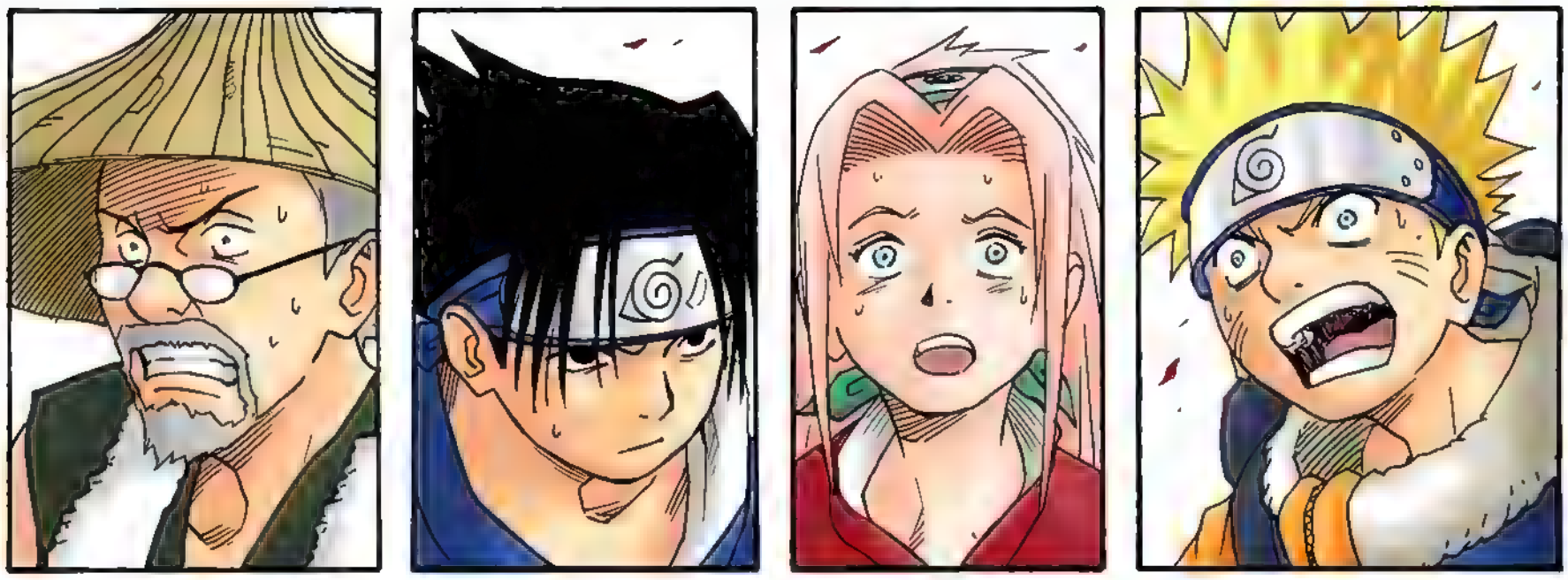

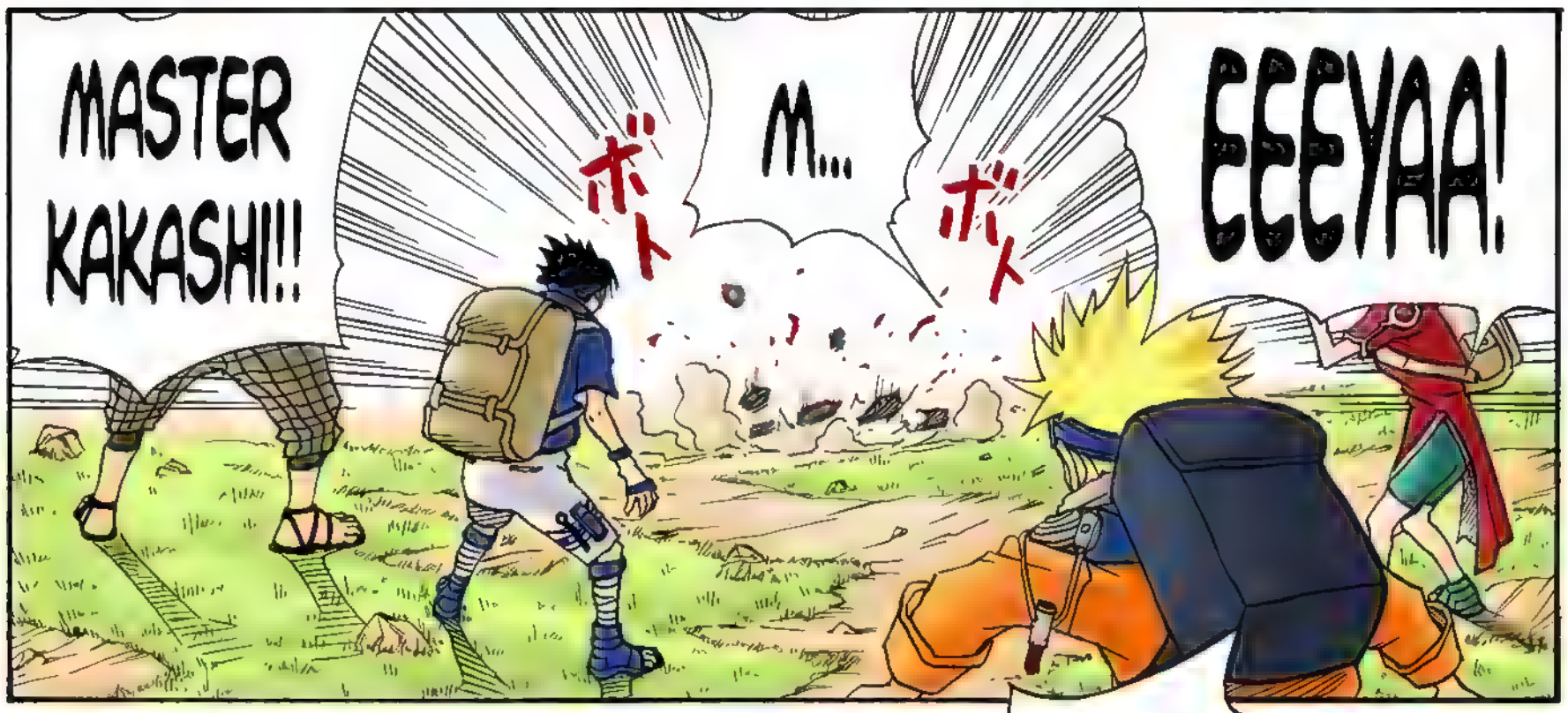

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ナンバー 10：2匹目 ひきめ

TARGET 2

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TWO LITTLE PIGGIES...

!

NI...P NINJA!!? !!?

COLORED MANGA.COM

CHHK

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ガッ!

IT WON'T COME LOOSE!

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!!!

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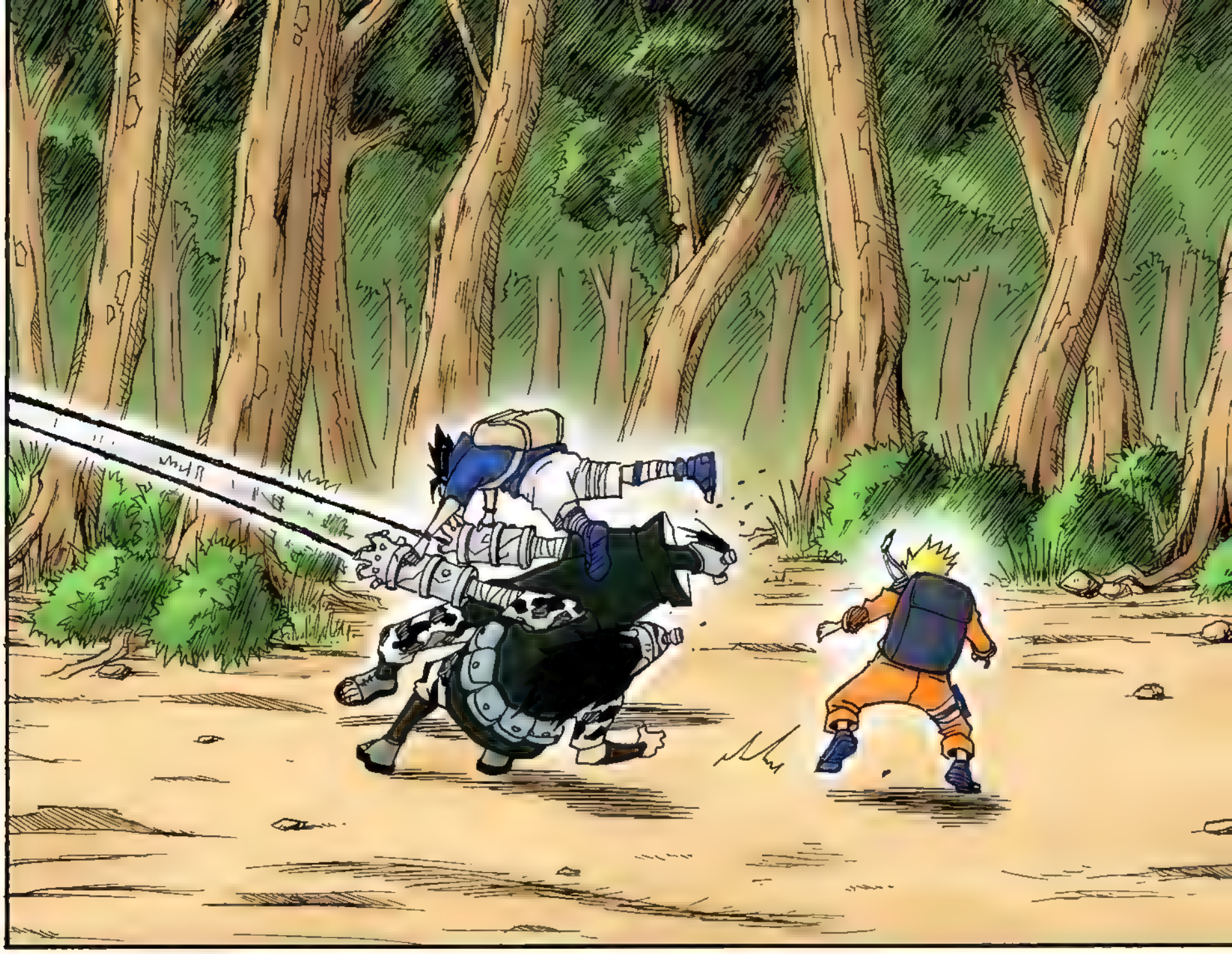
GWRK!
WOW...!!
W-
ゲエ!!
KLANNG

TMP

!

!!

COLORED MANGA.COM

YAAAH

!!

私 I'VE GOT TO DO SOME-THING... なきゃ…

や… I'VE... GOT TO!!! ってや!!

HE...!

来 HERE IT COMES!!

!!

!!

BUMP!

STAND BACK, SIR!!

COLORED MANGA.COM

!!

!

!!

!

HMF

!!

KA

!!

COLORED
MANGA.COM

AAIEEGH...!

!!

!

HUMPH...

ふん…

HE HAD TO BUTT IN!

りが…

YOU'RE... ALIVE?!

きてたァ!?

MASTER KAKASHI...!

カシ先生…!

I'M NOT SURE HOW THEY DID IT, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE BEEN SAVED!

ほよ

ノにか

たわい

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(MASTER) KAKASHI... USED THE ART OF TRANSFORMATION...!

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!

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BUT SASUKE, WHO'S NEVER BEEN IN A REAL

COULDN'T DO A SINGLE THING!

GOOD JOB, SASUKE.

YOU TOO, SAKURA.

IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME THAT YOU WOULD FREEZE UP.

...BEFORE YOU WERE INJURED.

I'M SORRY, NARUTO. I SHOULD HAVE MOVED TO HELP YOU SOONER...

初(はじ)めて実戦(じっせん)なのに…
ちACTED) LIKE IT WAS 思(おも)NO BIG 怖(こわ)DEAL. いって
ンたのか

平(へい)服(ふく)つ
HE DIDN'T EVEN BREAK A SWEAT.
オして
一つ
に…

BUT HE STILL MANAGED TO SAVE MY LIFE.
と
を
て
…

HEY...

!!!

ARE YOU OKAY...

...YOU BIG CHICKEN?

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FOR NOW, KEEP AS STILL AS POSSIBLE, SO THE POISON DOESN'T SPREAD.

.....

IF WE CUT IT OPEN MORE DEEPLY, THE BLOOD FLOW WILL WASH THE POISON AWAY.

スゥー スゥー

WE HAVE TO CLEAN THAT WOUND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THEIR CLAWS ARE POISONED.

!

NARUTO! THERE'S NO TIME NOW FOR FIGHTING

I NEED TO SPEAK WITH YOU.

WHA... WHAT IS IT?!

MR. TAZUNA.

THEY ARE SHINOBI RENOWNED FOR THEIR WILLINGNESS TO FIGHT ON UNTIL THEIR GOAL IS ACHIEVED, EVEN AT THE COST OF THEIR OWN LIVES.

OUR ATTACKERS APPEARED TO BE JOURNEYMEN LEVEL NINJA OF THE KIRIGAKURE CLAN— MIST NINJAS.

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...SO THERE SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ANY PUDDLES ON THE GROUND.

キラ

THE SUN IS OUT, AND IT HASN'T RAINED FOR SEVERAL DAYS...

OBVIOUSLY, THEY WERE WATCHING AND WAITING FOR US.

I WANTED TO FIND OUT...

WHO THEIR REAL TARGET WAS.

I COULD HAVE KILLED THEM AT ANY TIME...

IF YOU KNEW ALL THAT, WHY DID YOU EVEN LET THOSE CREEPS ATTACK YOU?

THE REQUEST THAT WAS RELAYED TO LORD HOKAGE WAS THAT YOU HAVE AN ESCORT TO PROTECT YOU AGAINST ANY ROVING BANDS OF THIEVES AND BRIGANDS.

THERE HAS BEEN NO WORD OF ANY SHINOBI SEEKING TO TAKE YOUR LIFE.

OR WAS IT ONE OF US NINJA?

WERE YOU REALLY THE ONE THEY WERE AFTER?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

?

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.....

TO PROTECT YOU FROM ORDINARY DANGERS UNTIL YOU COMPLETE THE BRIDGE YOU'RE CURRENTLY CONSTRUCT-ING...

...WOULD BE A SIMPLE THING.

IN ANY CASE, IT'S CLEAR THIS IS MORE THAN A "B" RANK MISSION.

.....

YOU MAY HAVE HAD YOUR REASONS, BUT IT'S NEVER A GOOD IDEA TO CONCEAL THE FACTS WHEN YOU ARE ASKING FOR HELP.

AS IT IS, THIS TASK FALLS FAR BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES OF THE JOB WE WERE ASSIGNED.

BUT IF YOU EXPECTED TO BE THE TARGET OF A NINJA ASSAULT...

...THEN IT IS BEYOND QUESTION THAT THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN CLASSIFIED— AND PRICED— AS A MISSION FOR ELITE NINJA.

THIS IS... COMPLICATED!

.....

ピク

HMMM...

.....

WE'LL NEED AN ANESTHETIC FOR NARUTO'S WOUND BEFORE WE CAN RE-OPEN IT AND DRAIN THE POISON.

WE'RE NOT GOOD ENOUGH YET TO HANDLE SOMETHING LIKE THIS... CAN WE QUIT?

CAN'T WE RETURN TO THE VILLAGE AND HAVE A DOCTOR LOOK AT IT?

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DO WE GO BACK NOW SO WE CAN MAKE CERTAIN NARUTO RECEIVES MEDICAL ATTENTION...?

IF YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE THE BEST, I WOULDN'T HAVE PAID TOP DOLLAR FOR YOUR SKILLS.

FAILED?! WHAT THE HELL DO YOU MEAN, YOU FAILED!!?

スッ…

!!

HIT

7

!

!

!!

NARUTO, WHAT ARE YOU--?! NO!! STOP THAT!!

I HATE NOT FITTING IN!!!!

WHY AM I ALWAYS SO DIFFERENT?!

COLORED MANGA.COM

BUT I BLEW IT... EVEN THOUGH I'VE BEEN DOING TONS OF EXTRA TRAINING EVERY DAY ON MY OWN, TRYING TO BUILD MY SKILLS!

BY NOW, I SHOULD BE REALLY STRONG!

I SWEAR IT... BY THE PAIN IN MY LEFT HAND...

...AND I'M NOT GONNA BE OUTDONE BY SASUKE!

I'M NOT GOING TO BE THE ONE WHO HANGS BACK TO FREEZES UP...

I SWEAR, NO ONE'S EVER GONNA HAVE TO SAVE MY LIFE AGAIN...

WITH THIS KUNAI KNIFE, I PROMISE YOU, I...

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REPORTING, FIT FOR DUTY, MASTER!

...WILL PROTECT THE OLD MAN.

ドク

ドク

THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. I, WITH THIS NECK-CLEAVING KNIFE...

DO STOP WHINING.

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...WILL TAKE THE HIT BY MYSELF.

I AM MOMOCHI ZABUZA, THE DEMON, OF THE NINJAS WHO HIDE IN THE MIST!

REMEMBER WHOM YOU'RE TALKING TO!

HE ENEMY HAS RED NINJAS OF TREMENDOUS SKILL! AND BESIDES...

NOW THAT THE DEMON BROTHERS HAVE TRIED AND FAILED, THEY'LL BE ON GUARD AGAINST FURTHER ATTEMPTS.

...YESSIR... BUT ARE YOU SURE YOU REALLY WANT TO?

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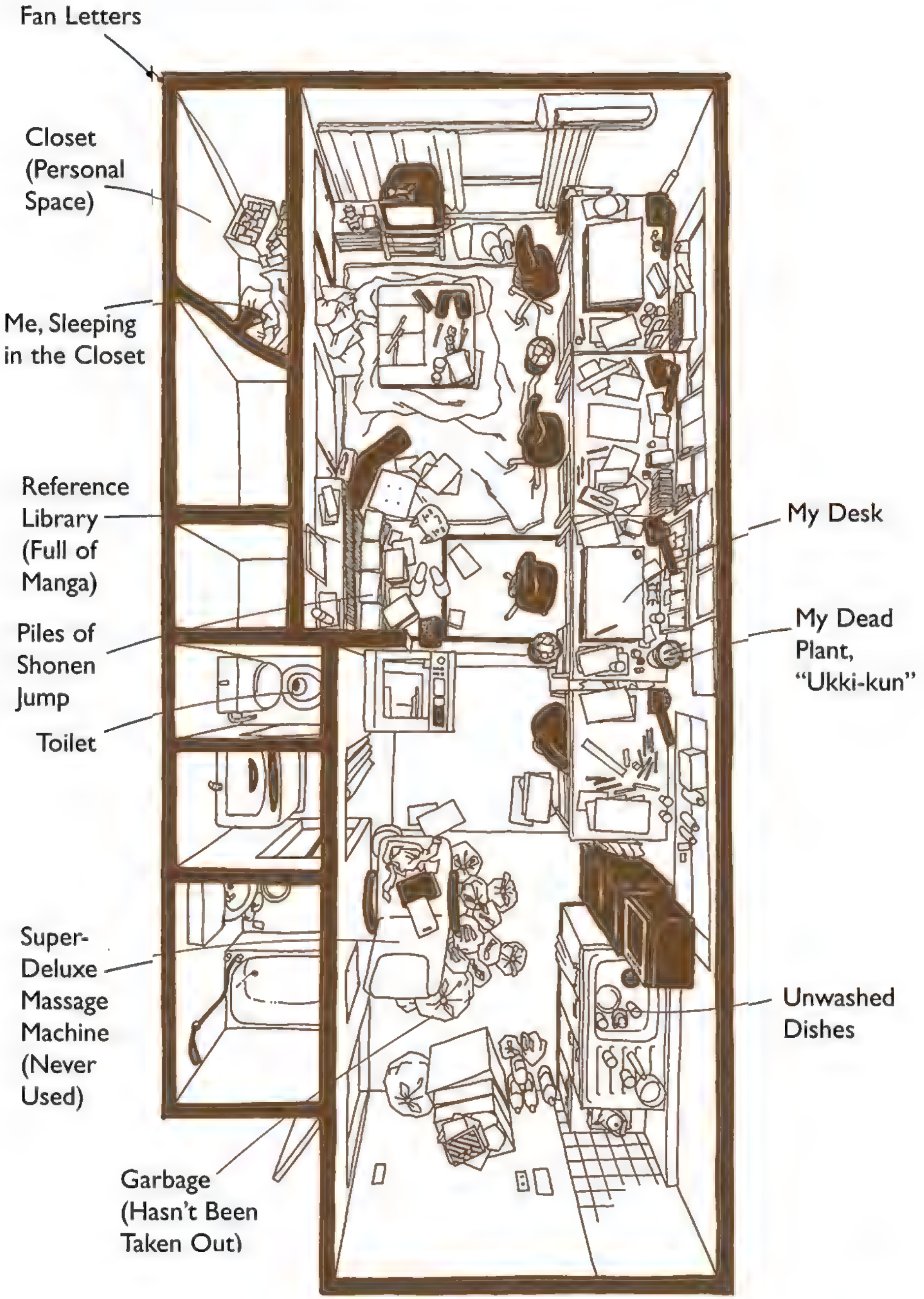

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NARUTO, WE NEEDED A FREE FLOW OF BLOOD TO CLEAN THE POISON FROM YOUR WOUND...

ナンバー11：上陸(じょうりく)…!!

GOING ASHORE...!

ビクッ!!

.....!!!!

YOU COULD BLEED TO DEATH. I'M SERIOUS. ♡

BUT YOU'VE EXCEEDED THE NEED...

.....

!

DO YOU GET OFF ON PAIN?

WHAT ARE YOU, NARUTO? SOME KIND OF MASO-CHIST?

SHOW ME YOUR HAND.

I DON'T WANNA DIE! SAVE ME!!!

NOOO! NUH-UH! NO WAY! ISN'T GONNA HAPPEN!

I'M NOT GONNA DIE LIKE THIS!

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...ALMOST HEALED!
...治りかけている...

HIS HAND... THE WOULD... IT'S
もう...

I SHOULD HAVE GUESSSED... IT'S THE POWER OF THE NINE-TAILED DEMON FOX!

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL BE FINE....

I MEAN... YOU KNOW...

!

IT'S ALL RIGHT, ISN'T IT...?

** MASTER KAKASHI LOOKS SO SERIOUS...!

I...

...HAVE SOME-THING I NEED TO SAY...

MASTER.. MR. SENSEI, SIR..

.....

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ナンバー 11：じょうりく 上陸…!!

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WOW, THIS IS SOME FOG. I CAN BARELY SEE A THING.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF IT IS NAMI NO KUNI— THE LAND OF THE WAVES.

WE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE THE BRIDGE IN A MINUTE.

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WHOA! IT'S HUUUUGE!!

.....

.....

WE'D BE IN BIG TROUBLE IF GATÔ CAUGHT US.

THIS MIST'LL KEEP US HIDDEN. BUT FROM THIS POINT ON, WE HAVE TO TURN OFF OUR ENGINES AND ROW.

HEY! KEEP IT DOWN!

MR. SENSEI, SIR...?

.....

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THERE'S SOME-THING YOU SHOULD KNOW...

UH---

.....

THERE'S A REAL SCARY MAN WHO WANTS TO SEE ME DEAD.

AS YOU GUESSED, THIS JOB IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS WERE LED TO BELIEVE.

A "REAL SCARY" MAN...?

..... ABOUT THE REQUEST FOR HELP I MADE TO YOUR VILLAGE...

.....

YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD OF HIM.

WHO IS HE?

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HIS NAME IS GATÔ!

HE'S A BILLIONAIRE IN THE FIELD OF MARINE TRANSPORT-ATION.

...OF GATÔ SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT? **THE** GATÔ? THEY SAY HE'S THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD!!

!

YOU MEAN... GATÔ...

HE STARTS OUT TAKING OVER COMPANIES... AND ENDS UP RUNNING ENTIRE COUNTRIES.

HE LIVES BY EVERY LOW AND VICIOUS TRADE KNOWN TO MAN.

THAT'S THE ONE. ON THE SURFACE, HE LOOKS LIKE A LEGITIMATE BUSINESSMAN. THE TRUTH IS HE'S A RUTHLESS, MURDERING CRIMINAL WHO EMPLOYS GANGS AND TEAMS OF SHINOBI, AND TRAFFICS IN DRUGS AND CONTRABAND.

THE ONLY THING HE HAS TO FEAR IS THAT WHICH HAS BEEN UNDERWAY FOR SOME TIME... THE COMPLETION OF THAT BRIDGE!

GATÔ NOW HAS A STRANGLEHOLD ON ALL FORMS OF TRANSPORTATION, THE LIFEBLOOD OF AN ISLAND NATION, AND A STRANGLEHOLD ON ALL THE WEALTH...

HE CAME UNDER THE GUISE OF A BUSINESS VENTURE. THEN THE VIOLENCE BEGAN, AND IN NO TIME AT ALL, HE'D TAKE OVER OUR ENTIRE MARINE TRANSPORTATION AND SHIPPING INDUSTRY, AND WE WERE ALL UNDER HIS THUMB!

IT WAS JUST ONE YEAR AGO.... THAT HE SET HIS SIGHTS ON THE LAND OF THE WAVES...

?

.....

NARUTO IS DOING HIS BEST TO KEEP UP.

THAT MEANS...

THAT THE NINJA WHO ATTACKED US WERE WORKING FOR GATÔ.

...YOU, MR. TAZUNA, ARE VERY MUCH IN HIS WAY.

I... SEE... AND AS THE ARCHITECT OF THE BRIDGE AND OVERSEER OF ITS CONSTRUC-TION...

BUT... I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND... IF YOU KNEW YOU WERE THE TARGET OF A RUTHLESS THUG WITH NINJA AT HIS DISPOSAL...

...WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US WHEN YOU ASKED FOR OUR HELP?

.....

AN ELITE, B-RANKED BODYGUARD WOULD BE A LOT MORE THAN I COULD AFFORD...

AND I HAVE NO MONEY AT ALL.

NAMI NO KUNI ISN'T A REAL PROSPEROUS LAND.

EVEN OUR LOCAL LORDS ARE POOR...

YOU WON'T BE THERE TO SEE MY DAUGHTER AND TEN-YEAR-OLD GRAND-SON CRY ALL DAY LIKE THEIR HEARTS ARE BREAKING!

BUT OH WELL! THAT'S NOT YOUR CONCERN!

THEN I'M AS GOOD AS DEAD.

BUT...

BUT IF YOU ALL TURN AWAY FROM ME NOW...

THIS IS THE WORST MISSION-FOR-HIRE OF ALL TIME!

GOTCHA!

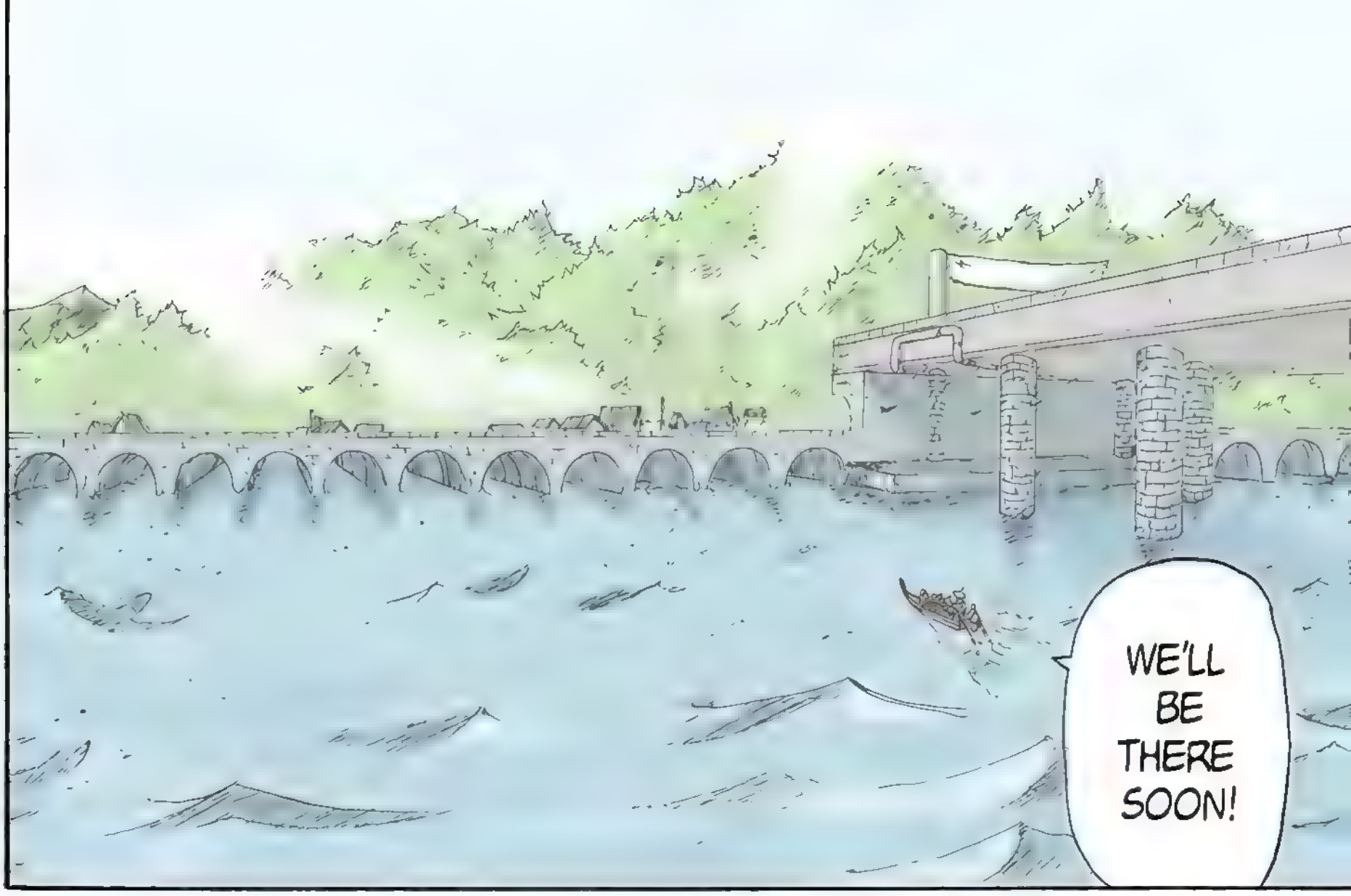
WELL... I SUPPOSE IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

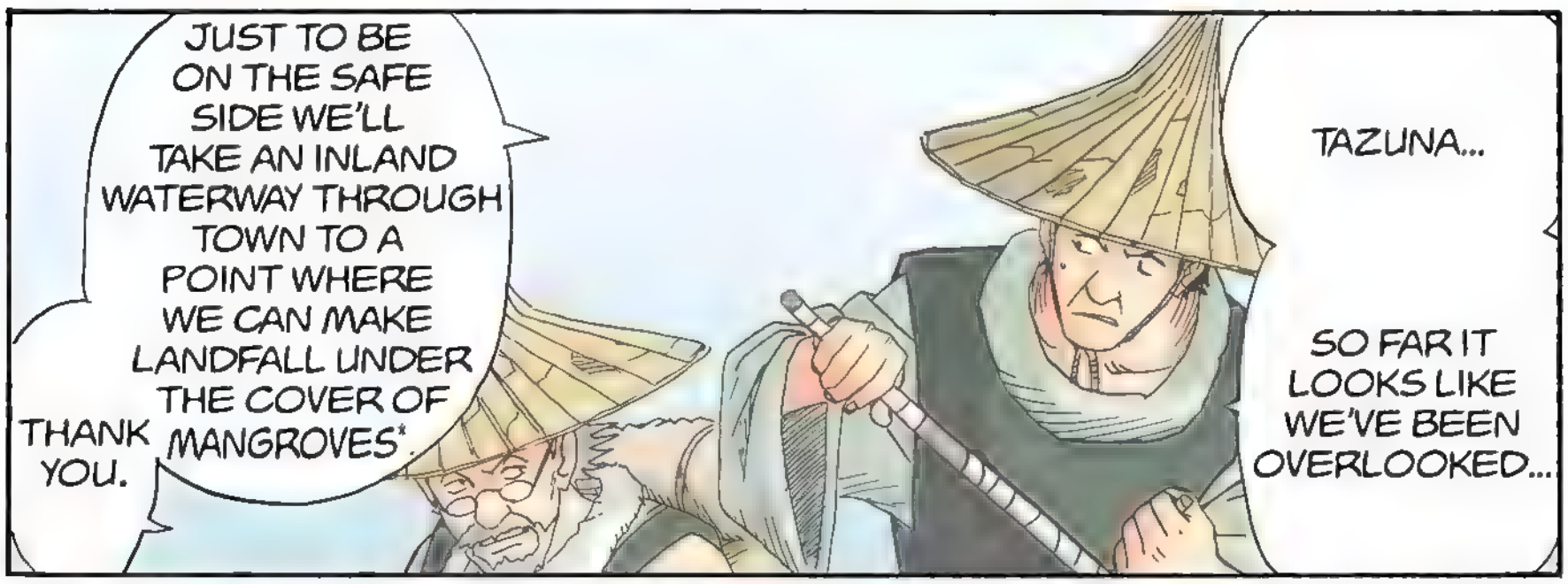
WE'LL CONTINUE TO PROTECT YOU, AT LEAST UNTIL YOU RETURN TO YOUR COUNTRY!

OH! AND YOU WON'T MIND IF MY DAUGHTER VOWS ETERNAL HATRED OF ALL THE NINJA OF YOUR VILLAGE AS SHE LIVES HER LIFE ALONE!

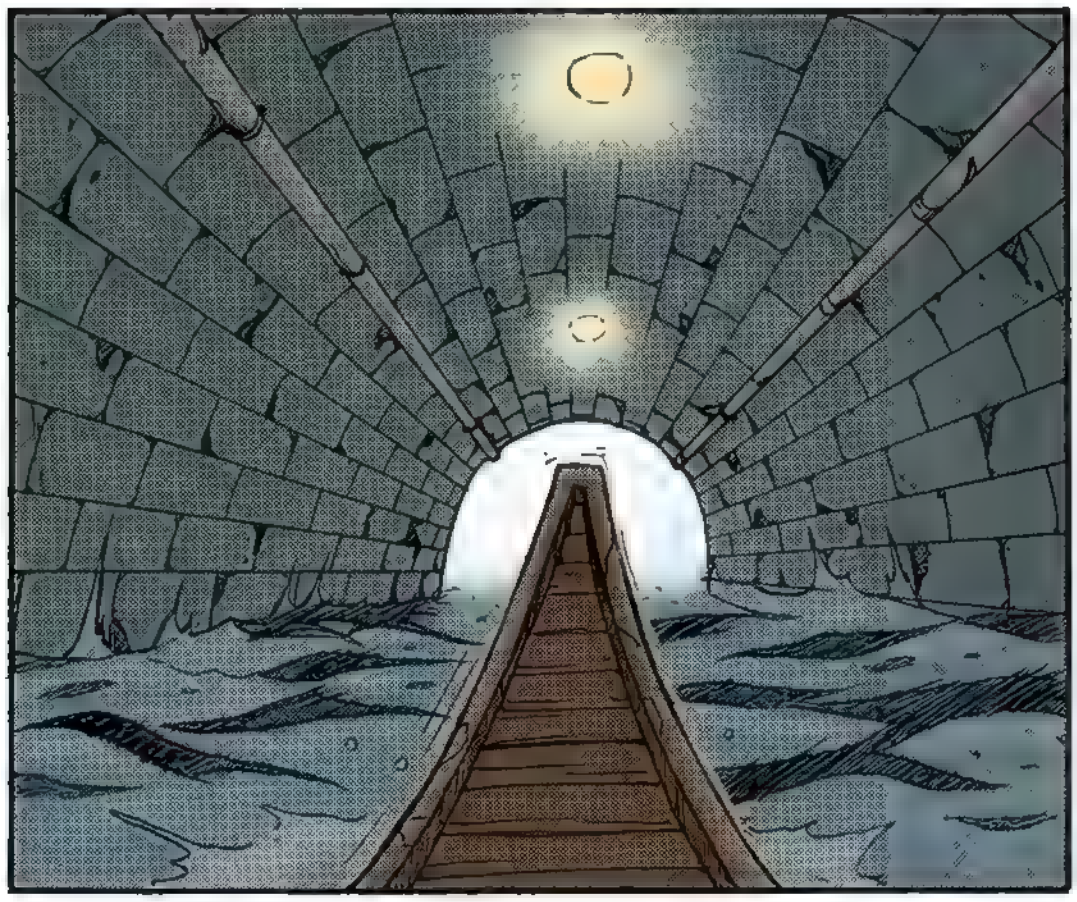
HECK! WELL, IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT!

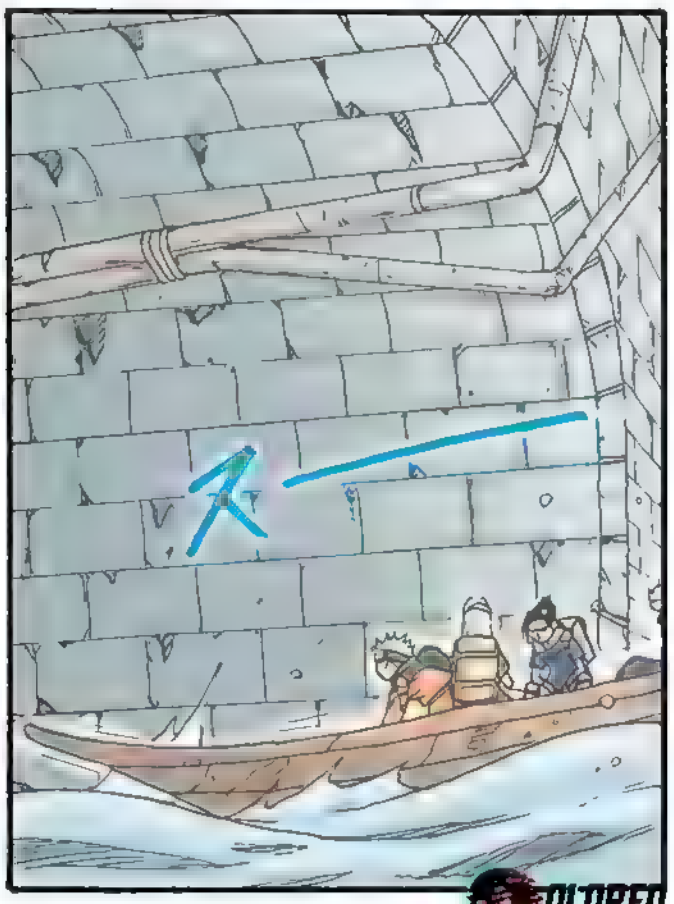
.....




JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE WE'LL TAKE AN INLAND WATERWAY THROUGH TOWN TO A POINT WHERE WE CAN MAKE LANDFALL UNDER THE COVER OF MANGROVES*.
THANK YOU.
TAZUNA...
SO FAR IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE BEEN OVERLOOKED...

*TROPICAL EVERGREENS THAT GROW ALONG THE SHORELINES AND RIVER BANKS AND LOOK LIKE FLOATING FORESTS WHEN THE TIDE IS HIGH.





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OHHH...

WOWWW!!

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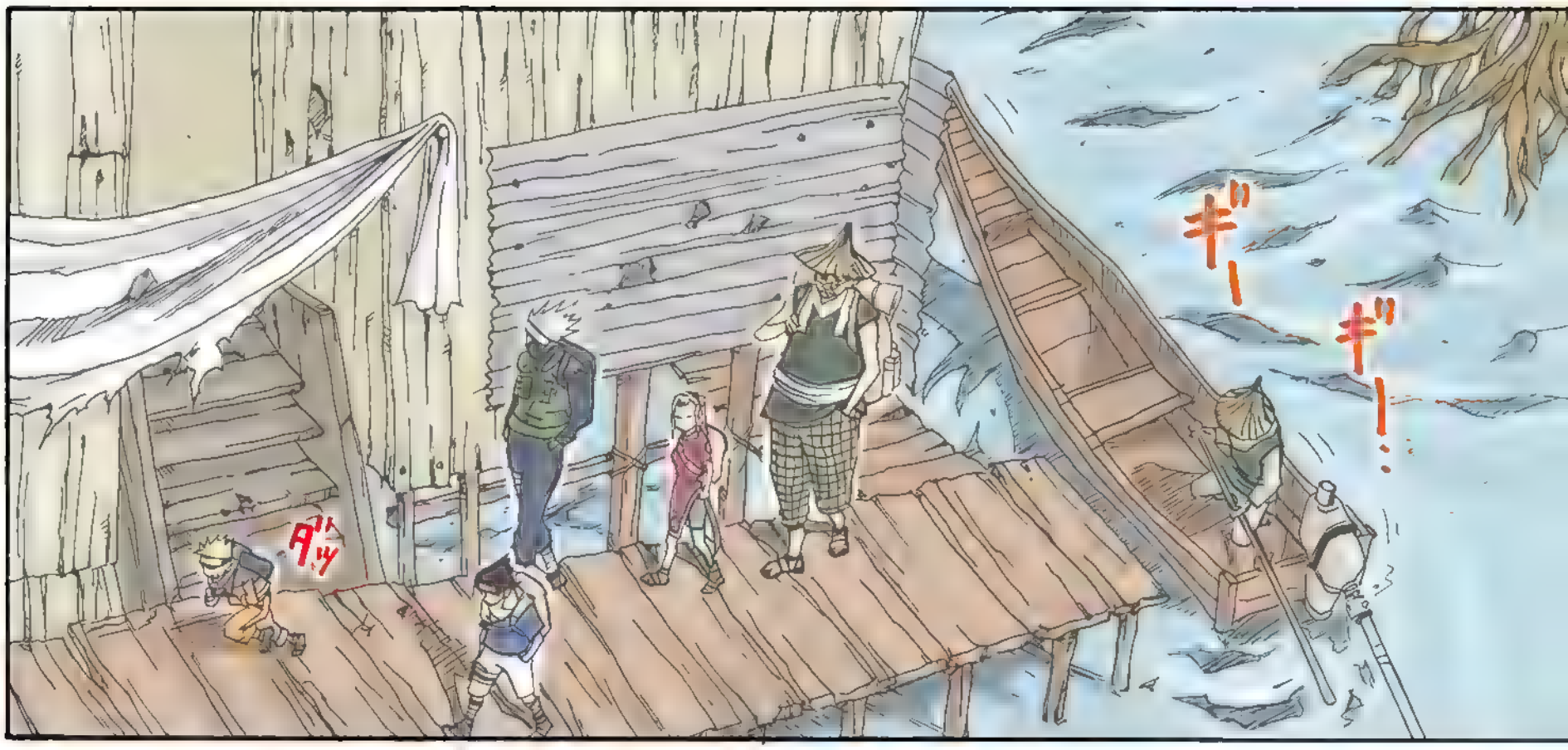
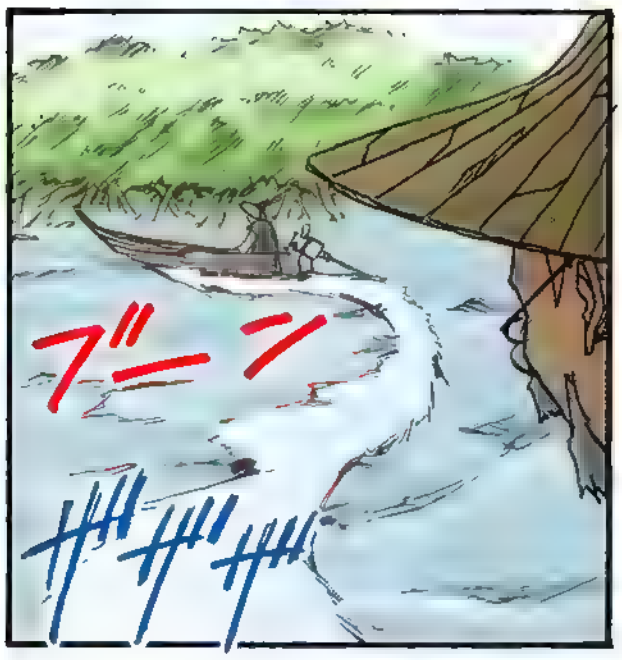
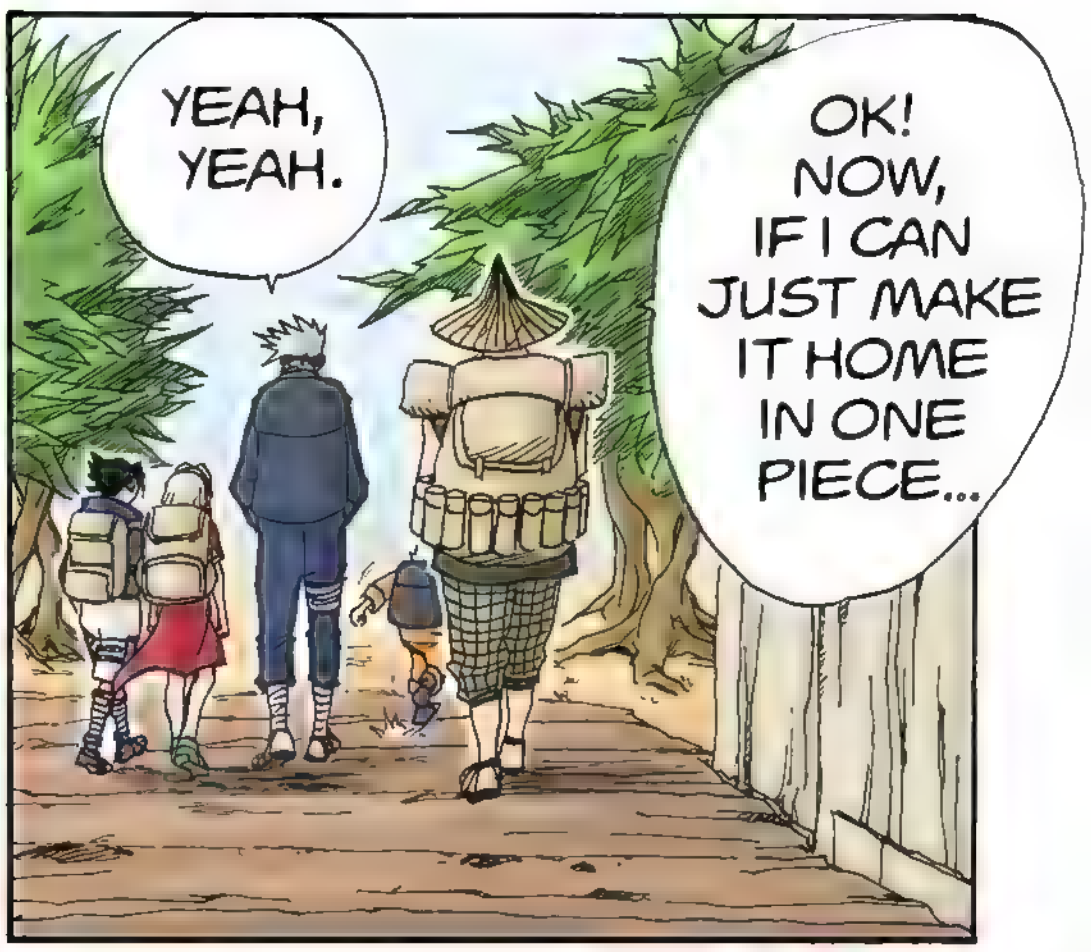




...AND NEXT TIME, THEY WON'T SEND JOURNEYMEN. WE'LL PROBABLY FACE UPPER-LEVEL NINJAS.
THERE'S BOUND TO BE ANOTHER ATTACK...
ネるとンが
COULD THIS BE ANY WORSE?



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THIS IS IT!

I'M NOT GOING TO LET HIM MAKE ME LOOK BAD AGAIN!

OVER THERE!!

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.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

PLEASE... PLEASE DON'T PLAY AROUND WITH YOUR SHURIKEN. THEY CAN BE JUST A TEENSY BIT DANGEROUS!

WHAT MOUSE? ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND? THERE WAS NOTHING THERE, YOU MORON!

I...UH, GUESS IT WAS ONLY A MOUSE.

GRIPE

GROUSE

HMF! I THINK I MIGHT HAVE SEEN SOMEONE!

SHIFT

SHIFT

.....

.....

STOP MESSING WITH OUR HEADS!

HEY! MIDGET!! DON'T GO SCARING US!

COLORED MANGA.COM

ピク

!

バコ

I TOLD YOU TO QUIT IT!

OWW!!

THIS TIME! OVER THERE!

ヒュン

カッ

カサ

YOU ARE **SUCH** A LIAR.

I SWEAR--! THERE WAS SOMEONE IN THERE! AFTER US!

イッテニー!

ズーン

ピク

ピク

バッ

OHH--!

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THAT'S A SNOW HARE.....

IT'S SPRING-TIME... SO WHY IS IT STILL WEARING ITS WINTER PELT?

JUST A RABBIT?!

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT. SNAP OUT OF IT, BUNNY! PLEASE!

NARUTO! LOOK WHAT YOU DID!

THAT HARE IS OBVIOUSLY A DECOY THAT'S BEEN KEPT LIKE A PET, INDOORS, WHERE THERE ISN'T A LOT OF SUNSHINE....

THIS IS IT!

IN WINTER, WHEN THERE IS VERY LITTLE SUNLIGHT, THE PELT IS WHITE.

THE FUR OF THE SNOW HARE CHANGES COLOR WITH THE SEASONS.

(春) はる

(冬) ふゆ

毛は茶色 (けはちゃいろ)

毛は白い (けはしろい)

IT'S KAKASHI THE MIRROR NINJA— KAKASHI OF THE SHARIN-GAN EYE!

YET, THEIR LEADER IS A SHINOBI OF KONOHA-GAKURE VILLAGE, AND NOT JUST ANY SHINOBI!

FROM WHAT I SEE... ...THIS GROUP IS NOT EQUAL IN SKILL TO THE DEMON BROTHERS.

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EVERYONE TAKE COVER!!

!!

!

!

!

!

AGGH!

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MANGA.COM

.....

THIS LOOKS LIKE...
は

THIS TIME SASUKE'S NOT GONNA OUTDO ME!!

YESS! IT'S HERE! MY BIG CHANCE!

たァ!!!

ドン

WELL, WELL... IF IT ISN'T MOMOCHI ZABUZA, THE KID WHO RAN OFF AND LEFT THE LAND OF THE MISTS!

READY....

STEADY..

...GO!!!

SHF

エ"ァ!!

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.....

THIS ONE IS ON A DIFFERENT PLANE FROM OUR PREVIOUS OPPONENTS.

GIVE ME ROOM

DON'T INTERFERE.

CHF

AND IF I HAVE TO FACE HIM, IT HAD BETTER BE...

ガッ...

...LIKE THIS...

THIS MAY BE A LITTLE ROUGH.

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MANGA.COM

GAME OVER!!!

ナンバー 12：お終わりだ!!

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IF IT WOULDN'T BE TOO MUCH TROUBLE...

KAKASHI OF THE SHARINGAN EYE, I PRESUME?

COULD YOU SURRENDER THE OLD MAN?

THE SHARINGAN- THE MIRROR-WHEEL EYE?! 写輪眼!?

ピカーン

!

?

SHARINGAN? ...WHAT THE HECK DOES THAT MEAN? シャリンガン? ...なんだそれ?

.....

COLORED MANGA.COM

ASSUME THE MANJI BATTLE FORMATION!

PROTECT MR. TAZUNA...

ALL OF YOU, STAY OUT OF THE FIGHT.

.....

THAT'S THE KIND OF TEAMWORK THIS SITUATION DEMANDS.

AND NOW...

...ZABUZA...

!!!

OH...

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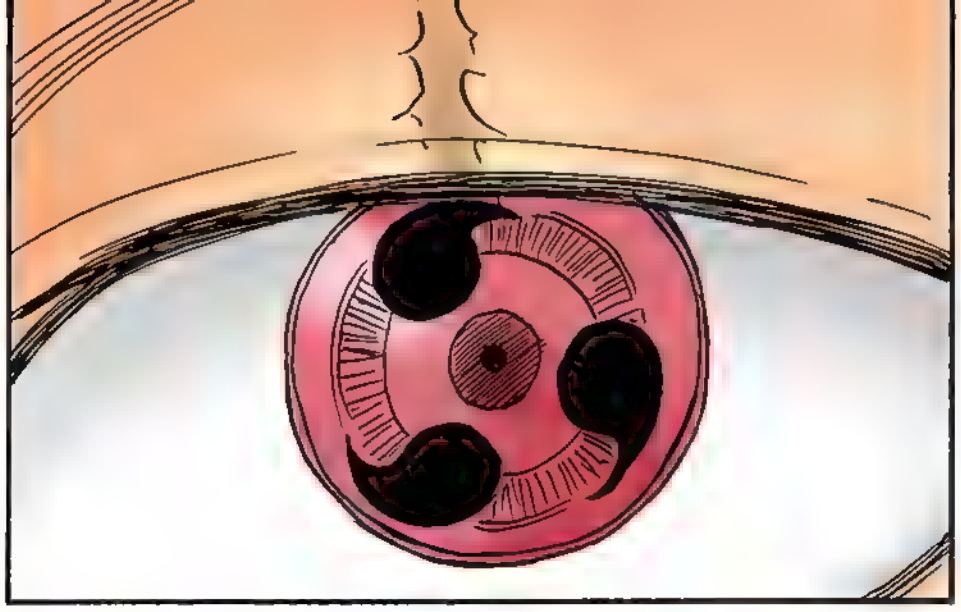
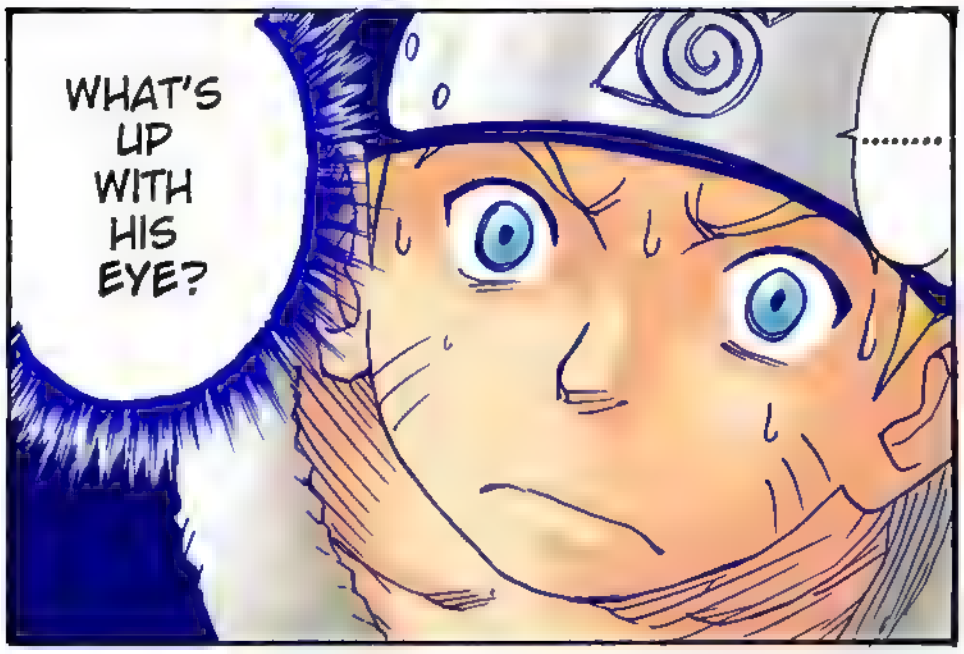
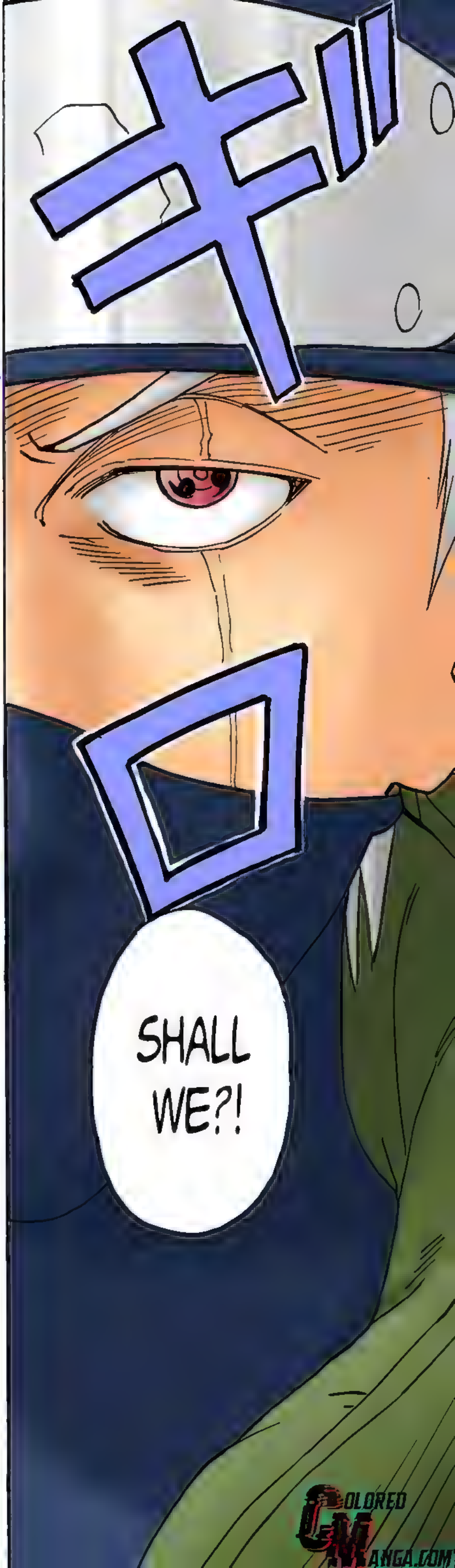



WHAT'S UP WITH HIS EYE?
.....

THIS IS AN HONOR...
AHH...
TO FACE THE LEGENDARY MIRROR-WHEEL EYE SO EARLY IN OUR ACQUAIN-TANCE...


SHALL WE?!

SHINOBI WHO HAVE THE SHARINGAN EYE...

.....

WHAT THE HECK IS IT?

YOU KEEP CALLING IT A MIRROR EYE, A SHARINGAN EYE...

AND TO REFLECT THE POWER THE MAGICS THEY PENETRATE BACK OINTO THOSE WHO CAST THEM!

NINJUTSU 忍

TAIJUTSU 体

GENJUTSU 幻

...HAVE MASTERED A FORM OF OCULAR NINJUTSU. IT ENABLES THEM TO PENETRATE AND SEE THE REALITY BEHIND ANY ILLUSION OR SPELL...

A MIRROR-WHEEL, OR SHARINGAN, EYE IS ONE OF SEVERAL TYPES USED BY THE MASTERS...

MOST FORMIDABLE OF ALL IS THE ACUITY WITH WHICH THE SHARINGAN...

...CAN DISCERN AND THEN DUPLICATE ITS OPPONENT'S GREATEST SKILL.

HEH-HEH... EXACTLY.

THERE IS INDEED MORE.

LIKE WHAT?

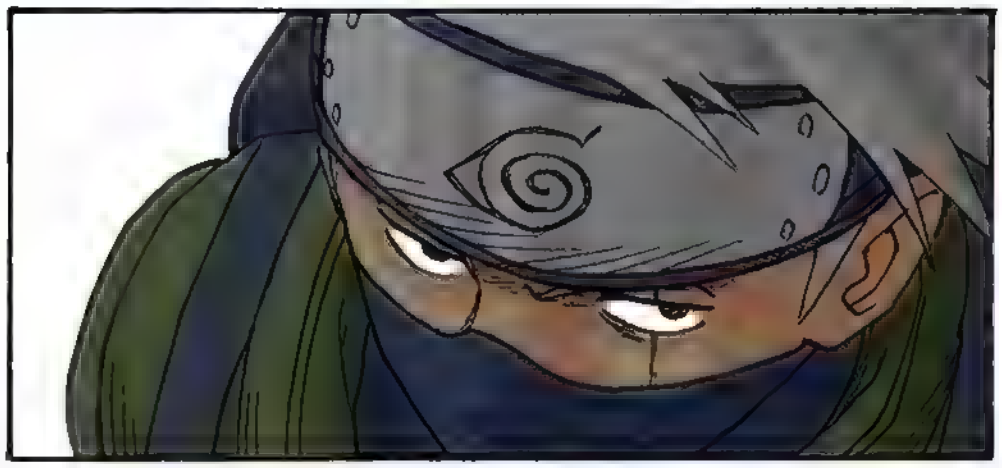
AND THERE'S MORE.

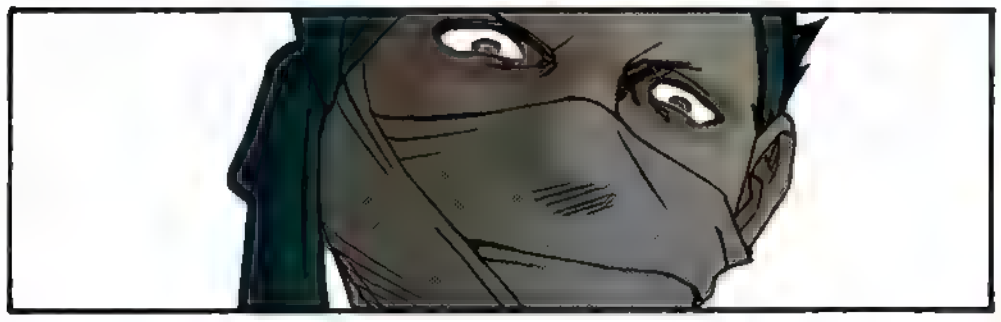
COLORED MANGA.COM

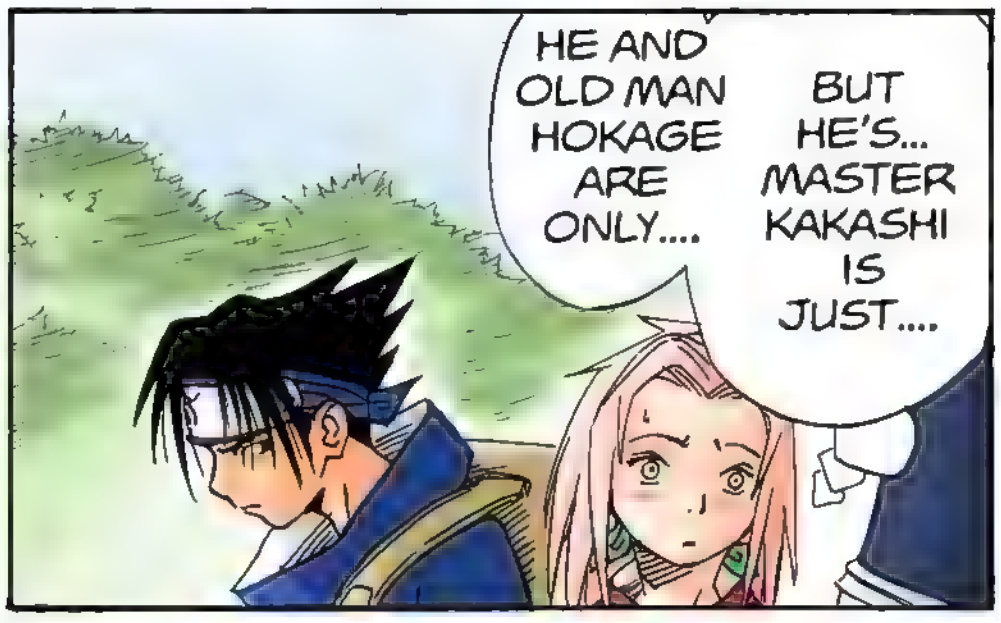
I POSSESSED THE USUAL BINGO BOOK - A KIND OF WHO'S WHO OF OUR ENEMIES.

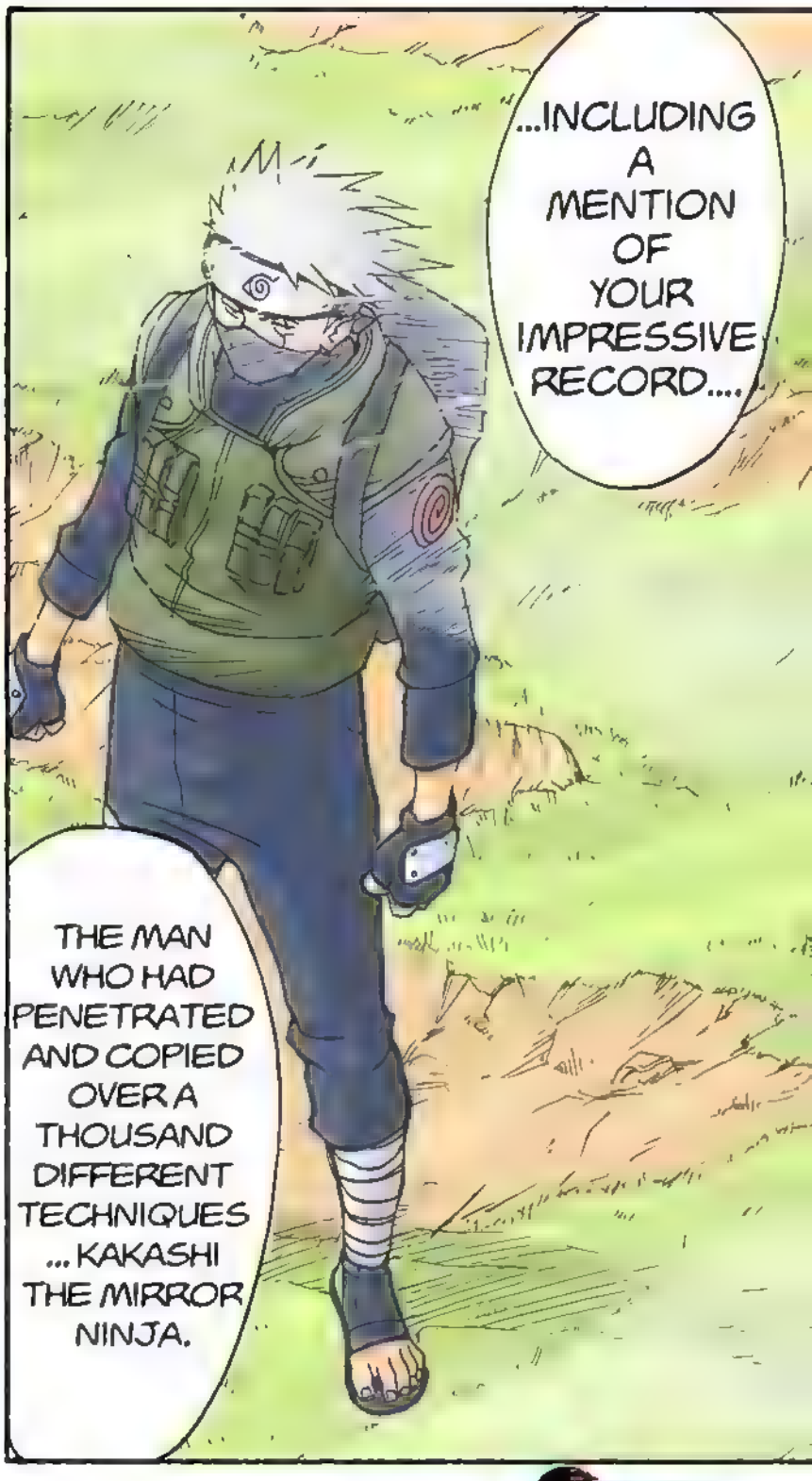
IT HAD QUITE THE EXTENSIVE WRITE-UP ON YOU...

WHEN I WAS AN ASSASSIN FOR THE KIRIGAKURE..








...INCLUDING A MENTION OF YOUR IMPRESSIVE RECORD....
THE MAN WHO HAD PENETRATED AND COPIED OVER A THOUSAND DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES ...KAKASHI THE MIRROR NINJA.

COLORED MANGA.COM

.....

...BUT... DOES IT MEAN...

H-HE'S THE BEST!!

ARE THEY THAT AMAZING?

...THE SHARINGAN EYE IS...

...SUPPOSED TO BE UNIQUE TO ONLY A SMALL NUMBER OF THE UCHIHA CLAN.

I'M ON A VERY TIGHT SCHEDULE TO POLISH OFF THE OLD MAN.

ENOUGH. PLEASANT AS THIS CONVER-SATION HAS BEEN...

...THE TIME FOR TALK IS OVER.

COULD HE BE...?

COLORED MANGA.COM

!

!!

FWWT

I'M GOING TO HAVE TO KILL YOU FIRST.

BUT... KAKASHI... IT LOOKS LIKE...

!

!!!

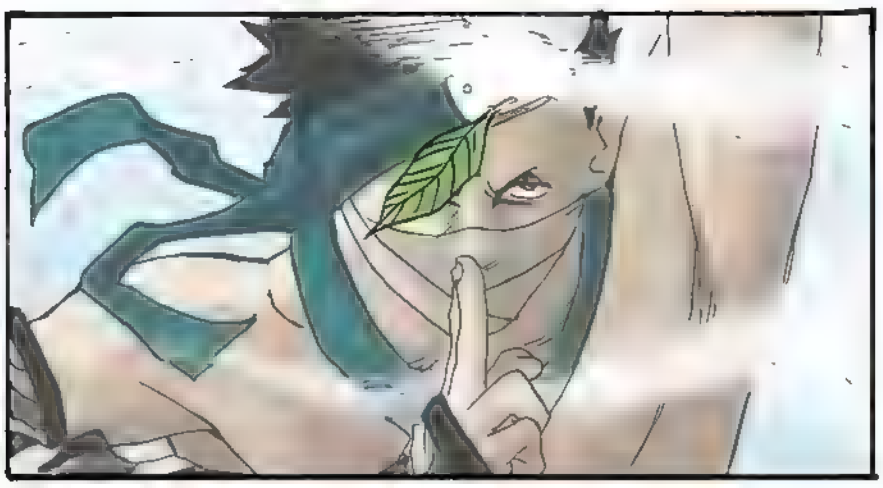
FFFV

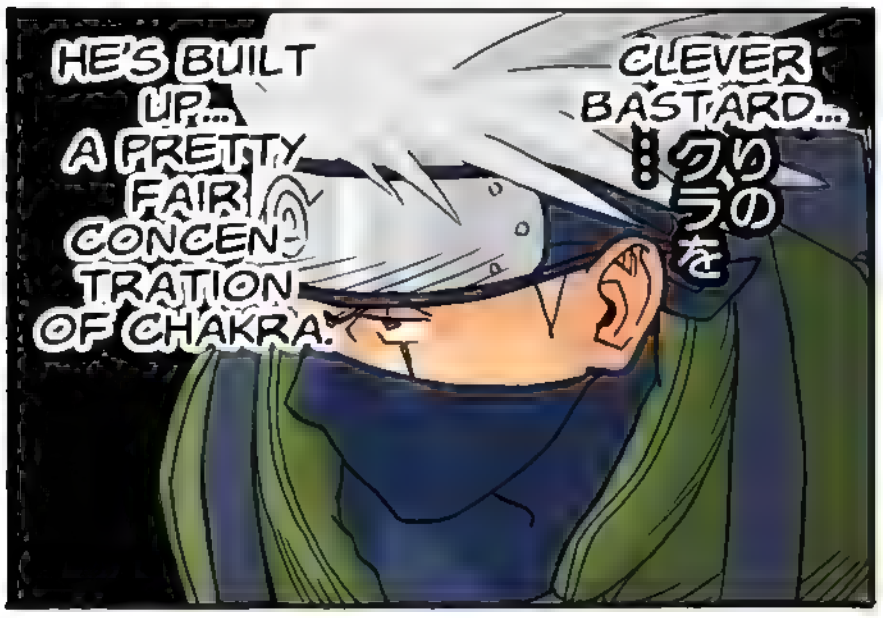
COLORED MANGA.COM

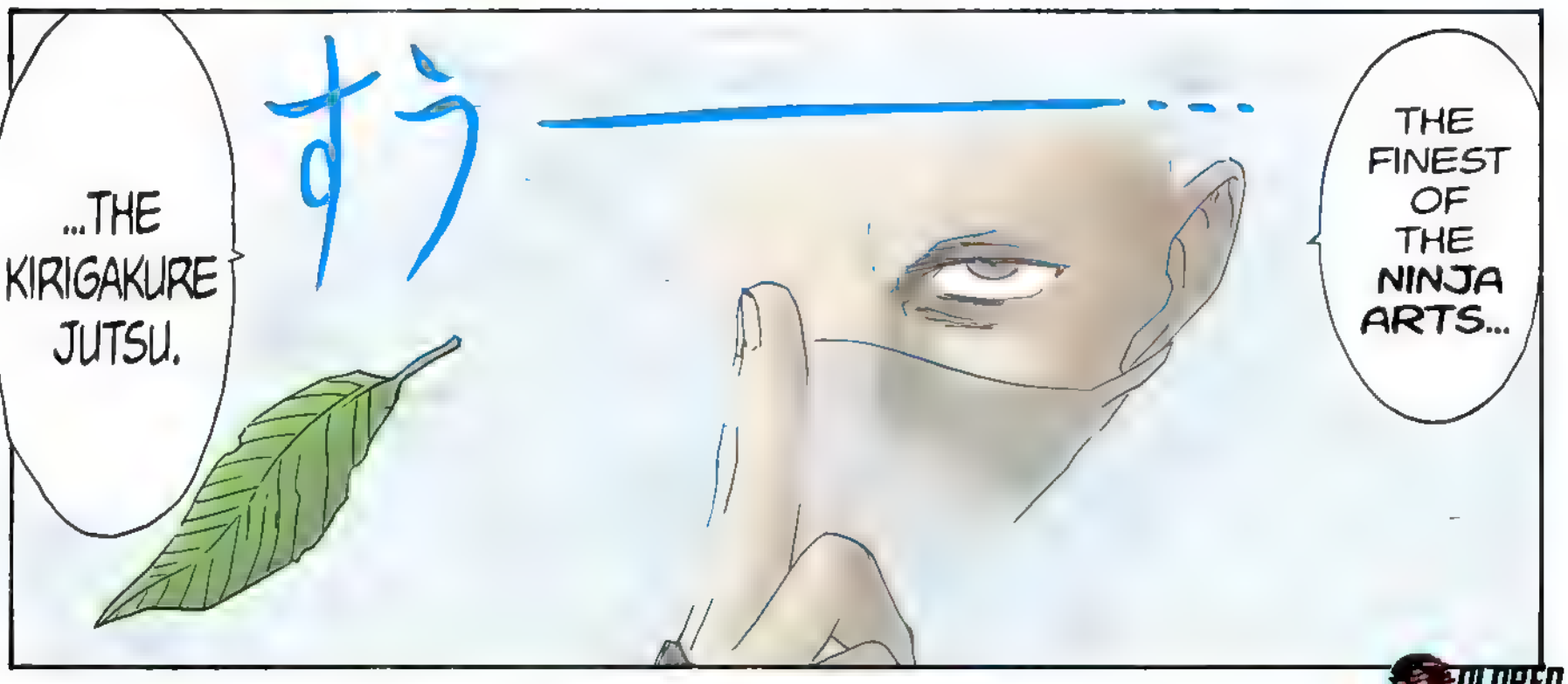
!!!

IS HE... WALKING ON WATER?!

OVER THERE!!







COLORED MANGA.COM

HE'S GONE!!!

...OF THE KIRIGAKURE ASSASSIN CORPS...

MOMOCHI ZABUZA...

... IS A FAMOUS MASTER OF THE ART OF SILENT KILLING.

HE WILL COME AFTER ME FIRST....

ドカン.

ドカーン

ドカーン

LETTING YOUR GUARD DOWN AROUND HIM BUYS YOU A DIRECT TRIP TO HEAVEN.

I HAVEN'T NECESSARILY MASTERED EVERY ASPECT OF THE SHARINGAN EYE...

SO ALL OF YOU STAY ON YOUR TOES!

COLORED MANGA.COM

WHAT?

!!

WHA... WHAT WAS THAT!?

THERE ARE EIGHT TARGETS

WHAT'S WITH ALL THIS FOG?

!!

... SO MANY CHOICES WHAT VITAL, VULNERABLE PLACE SHALL I CHOOSE? HEH-HEH

!!

KIDNEY, HEART

THROAT, SPINAL COLUMN, LUNGS, LIVER

THE JUGULAR VEIN, THE SUBCLAVIAN ARTERY.

EON..

.....

COLORED MANGA.COM

I CAN'T STAY LIKE THIS FOR LONG! I'M GOING TO LOSE IT.

IF I DRAW HIS ATTENTION BY EVEN BLINKING, HE'LL KILL ME! I CAN FEEL IT!
だ　　えき

THIS TERRIBLE BLOOD-THIRST...!
スゲエ　　殺気だ！

I HATE IT! YOU START WANTING TO DIE, JUST TO END THE SUSPENSE...
りんね　メ　　た…

A MASTER NINJA, DETERMINED TO MAKE A KILL... 意：KNOWING MY LIFE IS IN HIS HANDS...

CALM DOWN.

EVEN IF HE GETS ME, I'LL STILL PROTECT YOU.

SASUKE.

！

ビクッ

COLORED NARUTO MANGA.COM

...NEVER LET MY COMRADES DIE!!

I WILL...

I WOULDN'T BET ON THAT...

!!

!!!

!!!

?

COLORED MANGA.COM

GAME OVER.

!!

!!!

!

!!

THOP

THUK

BOP

カ゛カ゛カ゛

EH?

COLORED MANGA.COM

SHM

MASTER!! BEHIND YOU!!

ZE!!!

KA!!!

!

COLORED MANGA.COM

EYAAAH!!

A...WATER DOPPE;-GANGER?! の術!?

!!

HE WAS ABLE TO さ「COPY」てME...

...IN THIS MIST?!! したって

DON'T MOVE...

!!!

SWUP

COLORED
NGA.COM

GAME OVER.

.....HEH-HEH-HEH...

HEE-HEE!

AWESOME!

.....

IT WILL TAKE MORE TO DEFEAT ME THAN MIMICKING ME LIKE AN APE...

A LOT MORE.

!

HEH...

YOU THINK IT'S OVER?

YOU JUST DON'T GET IT...

COLORED MANGA.COM

HEH-HEH....

BUT YOU ARE GOOD!

ナンバー 13：忍者だ!!

NiNJA!!

...NEVER LET MY COMRADES DIE!!

I WILL...

IN THAT SHORT TIME...

YOU DUPLICATED MY WATER DOPPELGANGER TECHNIQUE..

.....

TOO BAD FOR YOU...

..WHILE YOU YOURSELF USED THE KIRIGAKURE TECHNIQUE OF HIDING IN THE MIST, WATCHING MY EVERY MOVE!

... YOU ENSURED ALL MY ATTENTION WOULD BE FOCUSED ON IT...

AND BY MAKING YOUR DOPPEL-GANGER SAY SOMETHING YOU'D HAVE SAID YOURSELF...

.....

COLORED MANGA.COM

!!!

ヒョ

I AM NOT THAT EASY TO FOOL!

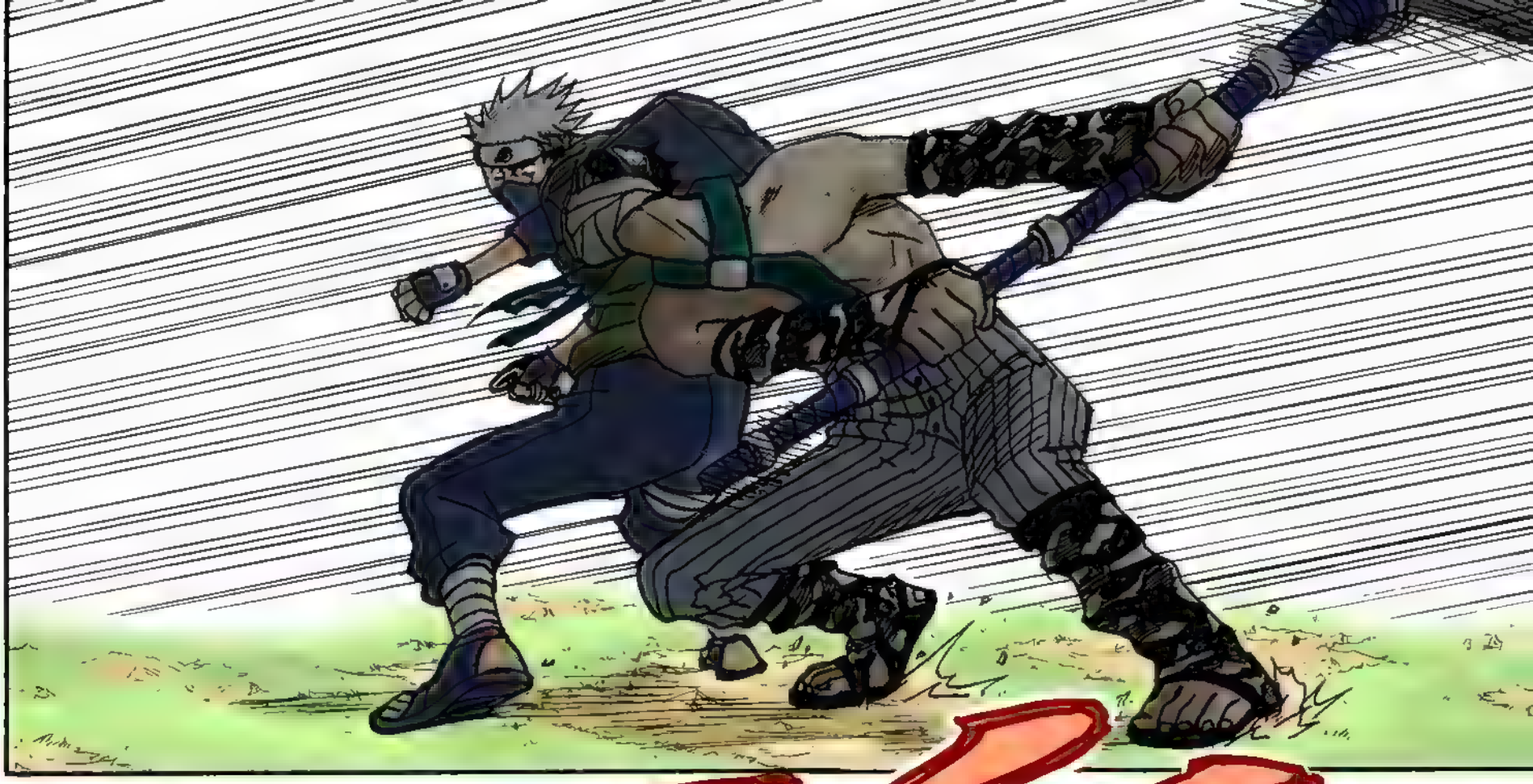
ZABUZA WAS A WATER DOPPEL-GANGER, TOO!!

!

COLORED MANGA.COM

ナンバー 13：忍者（にんじゃ）だ!!

COLORED MANGA.COM



COLORED
MANGA.COM

!!

!

!

KU

COLORED
MANGA.COM

AND NOW...

!!

まき、CALTROPS...!

MASTER!!

!

GET KICKED.. ALL THAT WAY...?!

UH... DID あ MASTER KAKASHI... の 先生 が

HIS 体 PHYSICAL TECH-NIQUES ARE FANT-ASTIC!! じゃ

FOOLISH-NESS--!

HMFF

COLORED MANGA.COM

ART OF THE WATER PRISON!

スッ‥

ハッ!

ハッ!

HAH! GULLIBLE FOOL!

!!

ハァ‥‥

THIS WATER... WHY IS IT SO HEAVY...?

!

WHAT?!

ドカ

!!!

...DAMN!! しまった!!

ゴゴゴ

HEH-HEH-HEH... THAT PRISON IS INESCAPABLE. YOU'RE TRAPPED.

I THOUGHT I COULD GO UNDERWATER AND REGROUP, BUT IT WAS A TACTICAL ERROR!!

COLORED MANGA.COM

ART OF THE WATER DOPPEL-GANGER!

I'LL FINISH YOU LATER...

...AFTER I'VE DEALT WITH ALL THE OTHERS...

YOU RUNNING AROUND FREE MAKES IT TOO HARD FOR ME TO DO MY JOB.

ズズズ!!

!

!

!

I KNEW HE WAS GOOD, BUT NOT THIS GOOD...!

HEH-HEH-HEH... LITTLE NINJA WANNABE. TRYING SO HARD TO FIT IN, YOU EVEN WEAR A HITAI-ATE HEADBAND.

BUT A TRUE NINJA IS ONE WHO HAS CROSSED AND RECROSSED THE BARRIER BETWEEN THE LANDS OF THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.

COLORED MANGA.COM

HE VANISHED AGAIN!

!!

!!

WE DON'T CALL YOUR KIND "NINJA."

WE CALL THEM...

...BEFORE YOU DESERVE TO BE CALLED NINJA.

スウッ…

CLOTHES DON'T MAKE A SHINOBI. YOU NEED SKILLS GOOD ENOUGH TO RATE A LISTING IN MY BINGO BOOK OF ENEMIES...

ナ!!

NARUTO!!!

カ!!!!

MANGA.COM

IF HE WANTS TO HOLD ME IN THIS WATER PRISON, HE CAN'T LEAVE THIS PLACE.

EVERYONE, LISTEN! TAKE TAZUNA AND GO!!!

IT'S A FIGHT YOU CAN'T WIN!!!

-UNH-

...BRATS.

...I HAVE TO GET AWAY. このままじゃ…

...HE'S AN ELITE NINJA. A REAL ELITE NINJA... 忍者

I CAN'T JUST LIE HERE.

SO GET OUT OF HERE!

IF HIS WATER DOPPELGANGER GETS MORE THAN A CERTAIN DISTANCE AWAY FROM HIS REAL BODY HE LOSES CONTROL OF IT.

ｸｧ

I'LL DIE IF I DON'T. HE'LL KILL ME!

...THERE'S NO DOUBT OF IT!!

COLORED MANGA.COM

ズギ

!

OW....

ガ

I SWEAR BY THE PAIN IN MY LEFT HAND...!

.....

I'M NOT GOING TO BE THE ONE WHO HANGS BACK OR FREEZES UP...

オレってば
また
NEVER
RUN
AWAY
AGAIN.
逃げ
ような
マネ
はしねえ
...

COLORED MANGA.COM

I AM NOT GOING TO LET SASUKE OUTDO ME!

...YOU BIG CHICKEN?

HEY, ARE YOU OKAY...

.....

MY... THIS? NO. NOT YET. NO WAY. !?

IT'S A BADGE OF ADULTHOOD. YOU DON'T GET ONE UNTIL YOU GRADUATE.

YOU CAN'T ALWAYS GET WHAT YOU WANT!

BY THE WAY... MASTER, I NEED A FAVOR... UH... YOUR HEADBAND. THAT LEAF YOU'RE WEARING... PRETTY PLEASE? ♡

COLORED MANGA.COM

おめでとう
...GRADUATE.
CONGRATULATIONS...
卒業…
もお
I'VE GOT A PRESENT FOR YOU!
プレゼント
こちょ
NARUTO, COME HERE.
おいで
...PASS!
一かっく♡
WHEN YOU ARE ON A MISSION, YOUR LIVES WILL ALWAYS BE ON THE LINE.
りだ
の
GIVE IT UP. NOT ONE OF THE THREE OF YOU...
...WILL EVER BE NINJA! WHAT YOU ARE IS A TRIO OF SPOILED BRATS...
だよ
AND THEN ALL THE VILLAGERS WILL HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE MY EXISTENCE AT LAST!
里
オ
認
を
MY DREAM IS TO ONE DAY BE A BETTER SHINOBI THAN LORD HOKAGE!!
THERE'S MORE TO ME THAN THE TROUBLE-MAKING SCREWUP...
ま
な
...THE OLD MAN THINKS I'AM!
イヤ
ねェ
うじゃ

COLORED MANGA.COM

AND I WON'T...!
ギリッ…
I SWORE I'D NEVER FREEZE UP OR RUN AWAY AGAIN...
スウッ…
GOTTA KEEP THAT IN MIND. I'M A NINJA NOW...
!
STOP, YOU FOOL!
YAAA

ガシズ…

!

YOU THINK YOU'RE SO COOL, BUT JUNIOR NINJA LIKE US CAN'T...

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING, TACKLING HIM BY YOURSELF!

!!

EH...?!

!

!

ｽｷ....

COLORED MANGA.COM

-A-AAAWW...!-

ITA!!

.....

額…HIS HITAI-ATE てLEAF HEADBAND...?

…!?

COLORED MANGA.COM

HAH...

HEY... YOU... WHAT'S LIFE LIKE WITHOUT EYEBROWS, FREAK?

-HUFF-

-PUFF-

A GUY WHO IS GOING TO BE THE NEXT LORD HOKAGE OF KONOHAGAKURE VILLAGE.

GOT A NEW LISTING FOR YOUR BINGO BOOK RIGHT HERE!!

ヒの..

.....

スッ

スッ

COLORED NARUTO MANGA.COM

KONOHA-
SCHOOL
NINJA!
UZUMAKI
NARUTO!

AT OUR FIRST MEETING, I THOUGHT THE LITTLE FELLOW...

最初の超時は..WAS JUST AN INCONSEQUENTIAL BRAT.

...NARUTO.

...ナルト

WHAT IS IT?

I HAVE A PLAN.

SASUKE! LISTEN UP. THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TELL YOU!

-THIS IS SO... NARUTO IS SO...

-I FEEL... STRANGE...

何なの気持ち...

...について

HMF...

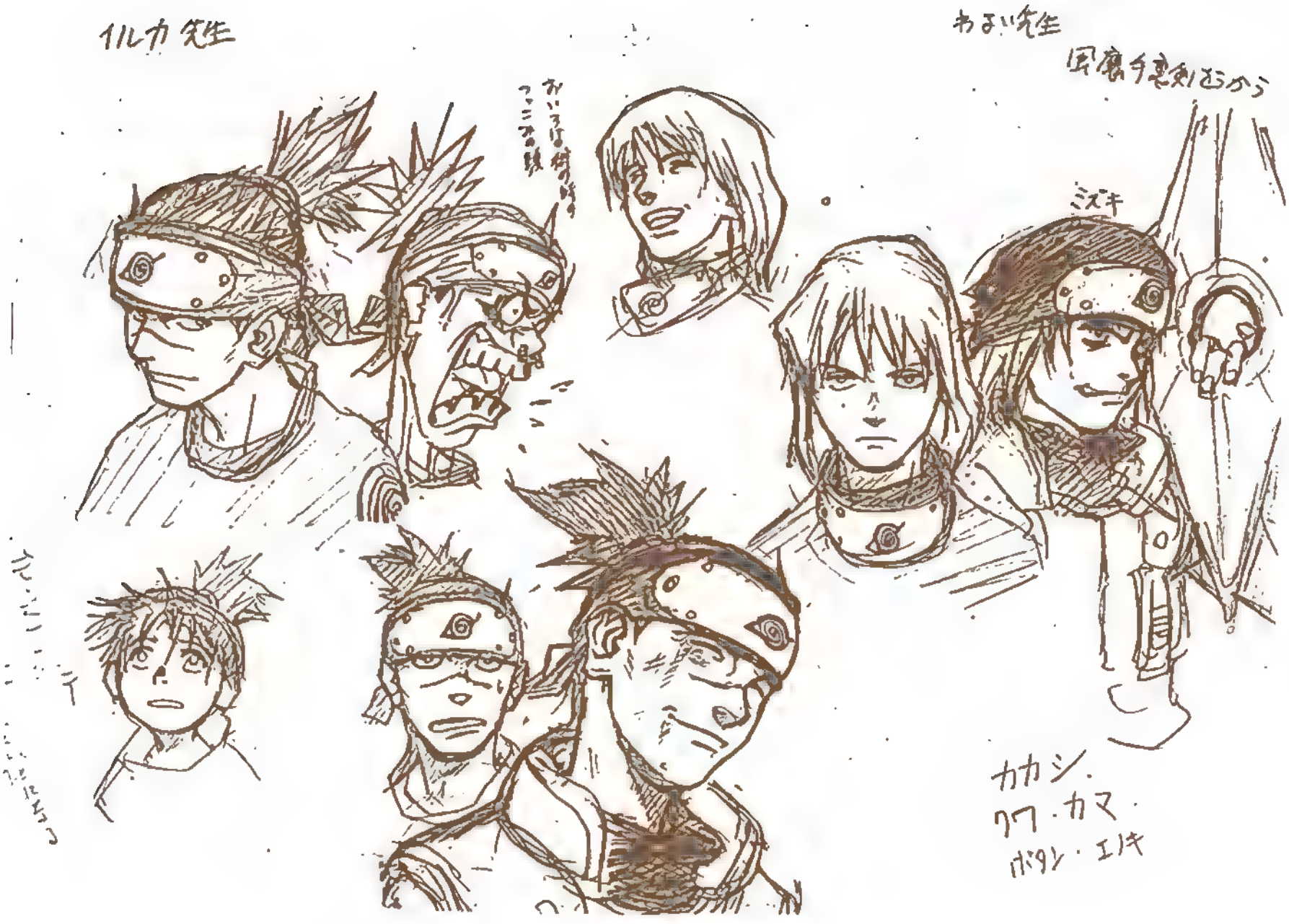
SO, IT'S TIME FOR SOME TEAM-WORK?

...NOW HE HAS A PLAN?

LET'S GET BUSY!

OK

COLORED MANGA.COM



IRUKA & MIZUKI

These were my first sketches of Iruka and Mizuki (see **Naruto** Vol. 1). In the final version, Mizuki's bangs are parted in the center, but otherwise he's pretty much the same. Iruka used to have a more evil look around his eyes, and sharper cheekbones, but I made him more relaxed and younger-looking.

One more thing. When I was originally planning who Iruka and Mizuki's teacher was going to be, I decided on the next teacher's name at the same time. If you look in the bottom right corner, you can see some of the names I considered: *Kakashi* ("scarecrow"), *Kuwa* ("hoe"), *Kama* ("scythe"), *Botan* ("peony" or "button") and *Enoki* (a Chinese nettle tree). Looking back at it, though, I'm really glad I used "Kakashi."

COLORED MANGA.COM

TIME FOR US...

...TO ROCK N' ROLL!...

ナンバー 14：秘策…!!

THE SECRET PLAN...!

...DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU STAND A CHANCE AGAINST ME?

HEH HEH... YOU'RE VERY SURE OF YOURSELF. BUT...

COLORED MANGA.COM

YOU HAVE TO DO YOUR DUTY. KEEP THAT IN MIND.

WE'RE HERE TO PROTECT MR. TAZUNA!!

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? I TOLD YOU TO RUN.

IT'S OVER.. IT WAS OVER THE SECOND HE CAUGHT ME!

DARN IT!

WHAT?

...

GRAMPS...?

...GIVE THIS FIGHT EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT.

SO YOU GO AHEAD...

I'VE HAD A REAL LONG LIFE, AND IT WOULD BE WRONG TO LET YOU FOUR KIDS GET YOURSELVES KILLED TRYING TO SAVE ME.

LET'S FACE FACTS. THE TRUTH IS, I GOT US INTO THIS MESS BY LYING...

COLORED BY MANGA.COM

ARE YOU READY FOR THIS?

...SO THAT'S IT!

HMFF

HEH HEH HEH HEH...

HEH...

スッ…

I, HOWEVER...

PLAYING AT BEING A NINJA LIKE IT'S A CHILD'S GAME...

!

WHAT?!!

APPARENTLY YOU DON'T CARE WHETHER YOU LIVE TO GET ANY OLDER!

COLORED MANGA.COM

BY THE TIME I WAS YOUR AGE...

...HAD ALREADY DYED THESE HANDS IN MY ENEMIES' BLOOD...

THE DEMON... ZABUZA!

IT WOULD SEEM MY REPUTATION HAS PRECEDED ME.

COLORED MANGA.COM

...YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT OUR LITTLE GRADUATION EXERCISE.

SO...

...THE FINAL STEP TOWARD BECOMING A FULL-FLEDGED NINJA WAS THE MOST INHUMANLY DIFFICULT TEST IMAGINABLE.

IN THE VILLAGE-HIDDEN-IN-THE-MIST—ALSO KNOWN AS "THE VILLAGE OF THE BLOODY MIST"...

LONG AGO...

WH-WHAT "GRADUATION EXERCISE"?

...HEH HEH HEH

..."GRADUATION EXERCISE"...?

!

HEH HEH HEH...

COLORED MANGA.COM

IT'S A KIND OF "KILLING SPREE"... AMONG CLASSMATES.

...

SAY WHAT...?

THAT'S TERRIBLE...

...

THINK OF IT. COMRADES WHO HAD TRAINED TOGETHER, LIVED TOGETHER, SHARED EACH OTHER'S EVERY HOPE AND DREAM....

STUDENTS WHO'D BEEN FRIENDS, EATING FROM THE SAME DISH, AS UNDERGRADS WERE DIVIDED INTO PAIRS WHO WERE FORCED TO FIGHT AGAINST EACH OTHER...

TO THE DEATH.

COLORED MANGA.COM

TEN YEARS AGO, THE ELDERS OF THE VILLAGE-HIDDEN-IN-THE-MIST...

...WERE FORCED TO ENACT A SWEEPING REFORM OF THEIR BARBARIC GRADUATION RITUAL...

...BECAUSE OF THE APPEARANCE, DURING THE PREVIOUS YEAR...

...OF A HUMAN FIEND WHO MADE REFORM ESSENTIAL.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT DID THE FIEND YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT DO?

...

WHAT KIND OF REFORM?

...BUTCHERED OVER A HUNDRED MEMBERS OF THAT YEAR'S GRADUATING CLASS.

...WITHOUT ANY HINT OF A QUALM...

WITHOUT A MOMENT'S HESITATION...

...A BOY WHO HADN'T EVEN QUALIFIED YET AS A NINJA...

COLORED
MANGA.COM

I USED TO HAVE SUCH FUN.

AH, YES. GOOD TIMES...

チラ…

ビビッ!!!

ビビビビ!!!

COLORED MANGA.COM

!!

!!!

!!!

!!!

COLORED MANGA.COM

TIME TO DIE...

POK

!!

SASUKE!!!

...

ART OF THE SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGER!!!

DAMN IT!!

クソーオー!!

COLORED
MANGA.COM

!!!

READY OR NOT--!!!

AND QUITE A LOT OF THEM...

SO... DOPPEL-GANGERS, EH?

COLORED
MANGA.COM

!!

ドン

YAAH!!

AAUGH!!!!

COLORED MANGA.COM

ッ"

もう THIS IS THE LAST THING LEFT THAT MIGHT WORK OUT... だお エ!!

ガ"

ドカ"カ"

POK

...THEY DID STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THAT MONSTER..

のにけが

INCREDIBLE! JUST WHEN I THOUGHT...

っぱり無理じゃ…

SMAK

!!

CHINNG

!

SASUKE!!

ナ"カ"カ"カ"

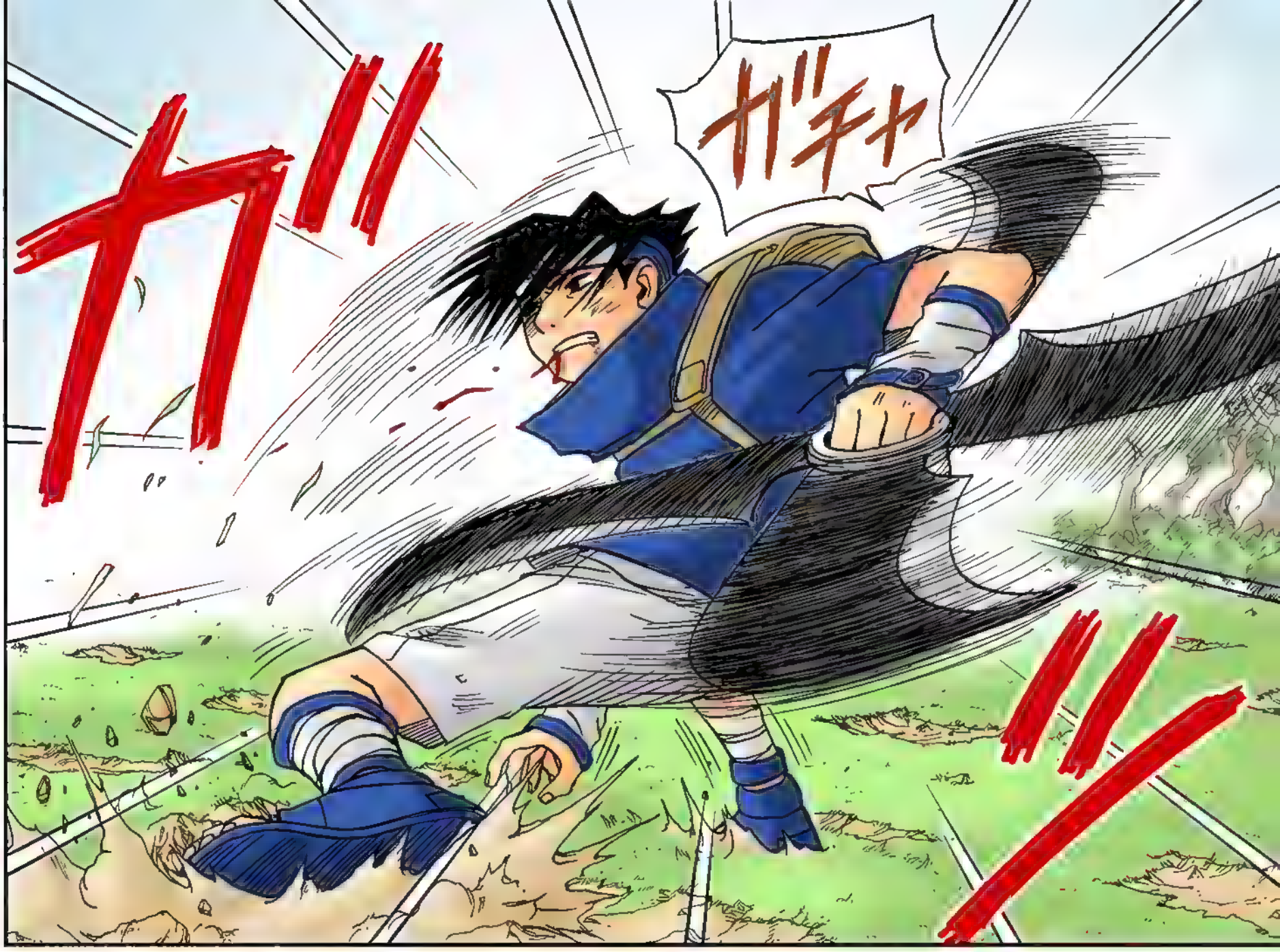
なるほどそういうナルト：

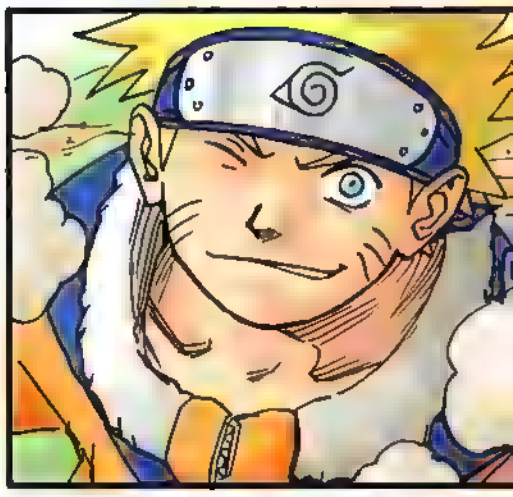
SO THAT'S WHAT NARUTO'S GOT IN MIND...

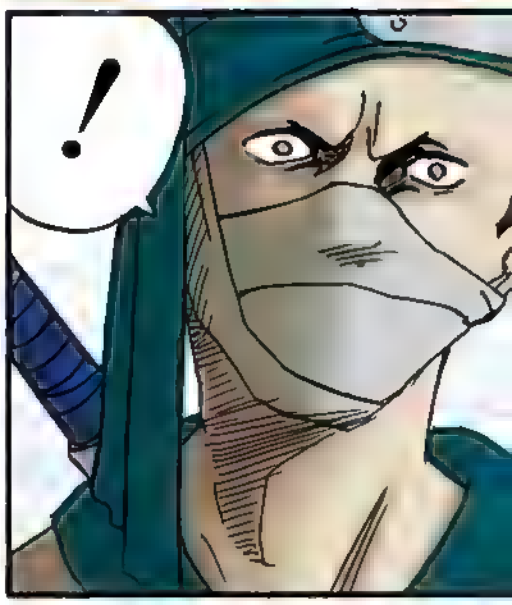
EXCELLENT. LOTS BETTER THAN I EXPECTED.

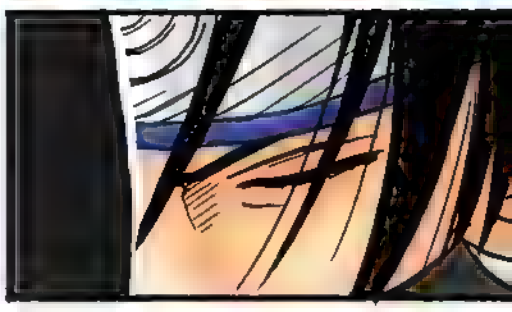
だしちゃ

COLORED
ANGA.COM









COLORED MANGA.COM

SHURIKEN ARE USELESS AGAINST ME!

!!!

COLORED MANGA.COM

AT LEAST THIS TIME YOU'VE HAD THE SENSE TO ZERO IN ON MY TRUE FORM...

!

スウ..

AMATEUR!

HE USED THE ART OF THE SHADOW SHURIKEN!

A SECOND SHURIKEN IN THE SHADOW OF THE FIRST SHURIKEN...!

!!!

COLORED MANGA.COM

!!

THERE WAS A SECOND SHURIKEN IN HIS BLIND SPOT...?!

GAAH-!

!!

スカ

HEH..

HE DODGED IT!!!

!!

STILL AN AMATEUR!

COLORED MANGA.COM

!?
HERE GOES NOTHING!!!
こ
あっ
!!
!
EH?
!!

OLORED
ANGA.COM

!!

ナンバー15：よみがえる写輪眼!!

RETURN OF THE SHARINGAN

シュッ

YAH!!!

COLORED MANGA.COM

ナンバー
15：甦る写輪眼!!
よみがえ
しゃりんがん
COLORED
MANGA.COM
COLORED
MANGA.COM

SpLaSH

!

!!

ピキ

COLORED
MANGA.COM

!

!

!

!!!

THAT, LITTLE RUNT!!! イ !!!

COLORED MANGA.COM

!!!

COLORED MANGA.COM

...NARUTO... YOUR SCHEME WAS BRILLIANT...

M-MASTER KAKASHI!!!

KOFF KOFF

HEH HEH...

YOU'VE MATURED... ALL OF YOU...

OF COURSE, I DIDN'T THINK THAT FORM ALONE WOULD BE ENOUGH TO PERMIT ME TO DEFEAT HIM, BUT I WAS AT LEAST ABLE TO FREE YOU FROM HIS WATER PRISON.

THE DOPPELGANGER SPELL WASN'T MEANT TO TAKE DOWN ZABUZA AT ALL. IT DIVERTED HIS ATTENTION AWAY FROM ME WHILE I TRANSFORMED MYSELF INTO THE SECOND WIND SHURIKEN!!

[本体]

SASUKE STACKS IT ON TOP OF ANOTHER *SHURIKEN* THAT HE ALREADY HAD, AND THROWS THEM BOTH!!

[DOPPEL-GANGER]

...THROWS IT OVER TO SASUKE!!

[MAIN BODY]

[DOPPEL-GANGER]

THEN THE DOPPELGANGER TAKES HOLD OF THE MAIN BODY, WHICH LOOKS LIKE A *SHURIKEN*, AND...

[MAIN BODY]

THE TRUE BODY TRANSFORMS! (!) IT BECOMES THE SHURIKEN AND FOLDS ITSELF UP AND LIES IN WAIT.

THIS IS THE DOPPEL-GANGER

THIS IS MY REAL, PHYSICAL SELF.

THE DOPPELGANGERS WERE A DISTRACTION! ACTUALLY, I ONLY NEEDED ONE COPY PLUS THE GENUINE ARTICLE

IT WAS BROKEN... FROM WITHOUT.

NO!! YOU DIDN'T DROP YOUR OWN SPELL.

SO... YOU MADE ME FLY INTO SUCH A RAGE THAT I UNRAVELED THE SPELL HOLDING THE WATER PRISON TOGETHER...

HEH...

COLORED MANGA.COM

JUST SO YOU KNOW, THE SAME SPELL WON'T WORK ON ME TWICE.

-HMMF-

YOUR MOVE.

ピク

バシャ!

丑申卯
子亥酉丑
午酉子寅
戌寅巳丑未
巳亥未子
壬申酉辰
酉丑午未
卯亥辰未
寅巳子申
子丑申酉
壬子亥

酉
TORI!
SIGN OF THE BIRD!

丑申卯
子亥酉丑
午酉子寅
戌寅巳丑未
巳亥未子
壬申酉辰
酉丑午未
卯亥辰未
寅巳子申
子丑申酉
壬子亥

COLORED

WATER STYLE! WATER DRAGON MISSILE!

!!!

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GUUH-!

YEEEK!!

ACK-!!

SO MANY KATAS PERFORMED SO QUICKLY...

真...AND MASTER KAKASHI MIRRORED THEM ALL, FLAWLESSLY... INSTANTLY...

WHAT IN-?!

IS THIS NINJUTSU...?!

!!!

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ギリ

ギリ

おかしい……SOMETHING…

いつもと…ISN'T RIGHT…

HE'S…!

いつ…

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パシャ
パシャ
パシャ
パシャ
!!!
FWUP
ハシャ!
ハシャ!
スス
HE SEES... に…
ALL MY MOVES.... MY GESTURES... を
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!!!

...THROUGH THEM ALL!

HE'S...

CURSE HIM!

Kﾝ!

HE'S READING MY MIND --?!

WHAT--?!

!!!

...GOT THAT SICKENINGLY EVIL LOOK IN HIS EYE...

RIGHT?

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I'M THE GENUINE ARTICLE. NO MERE COPYCAT STANDS A CHANCE AGAINST ME.

FEH... YOU'RE A PALE IMITATION.

I'LL CLOSE YOUR BEAK FOR GOOD!

YOU MIMIC ME LIKE A PARROT!

!!!

!-- IT'S...!

!!!

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IS THIS ANOTHER OF HIS ILLUSIONS?

BUT TH-THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!!! なそんな!!

ME?

WATER STYLE! GIANT WATERFALL!

バ バ バ バ バ

WH-WHAT--?!

バナナTHIS IS ABSURD!! !!

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!!!
スーッ
BEFORE I COULD EVEN FINISH MY NINJUTSU, HE USED THE SAME TECHNIQUE AGAINST ME...!
術が…
した
!!!
UHN...!
ドカ
YAUGH...
AHH--!
AARGH=/
追
CAN'T KEEP UP WITH HIM!!
ない
スーッ
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THAT'S THAT...

UHN...!

...CAN YOU SEE THE FUTURE...?

...WHAT...

...YOUR DEATH.

I FORESEE...

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!!!

!!

!!

HEH HEH... YOUR PREDICTION CAME TRUE.

SHFF

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MAKE-OUT PARADISE

I've gotten a number of letters asking me to tell more about **Make-Out Paradise**, the books Kakashi is always reading. Therefore, I've decided to write a little bit about it.

Make-Out Paradise (a three-volume series) is Kakashi's favorite reading material! The plot involves.....

.....

.....Umm...unfortunately, even though **Naruto** is "recommended for ages 13 and up," it's not *quite* "adult" enough to explain the story of **Make-Out Paradise**. Sorry! But I will say that if Kakashi gets his wish, **Make-Out Paradise** Vol. 1 may yet be published in English!

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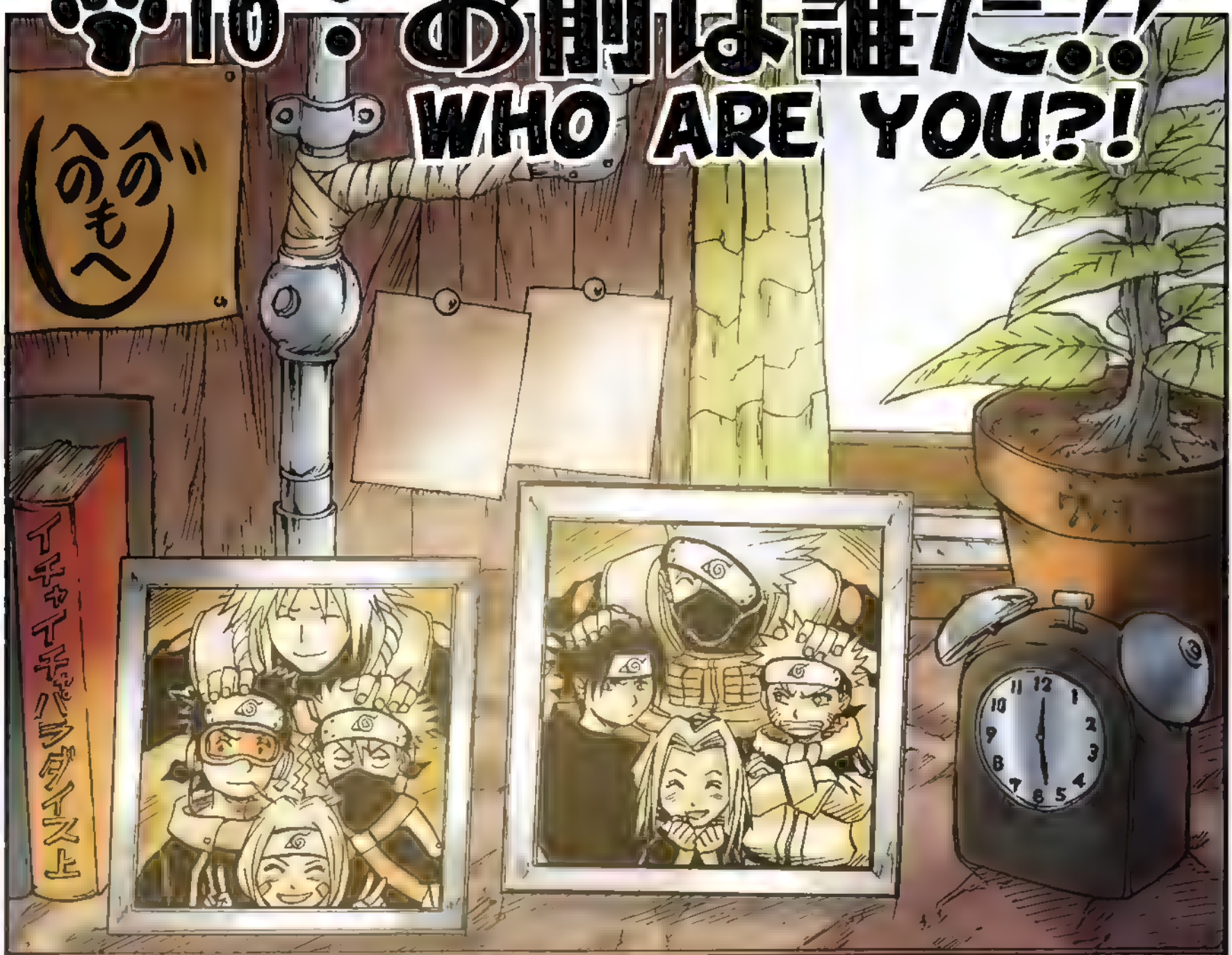
ナンバー16・お前(まえ)は誰(だれ)だ!!
WHO ARE YOU?!



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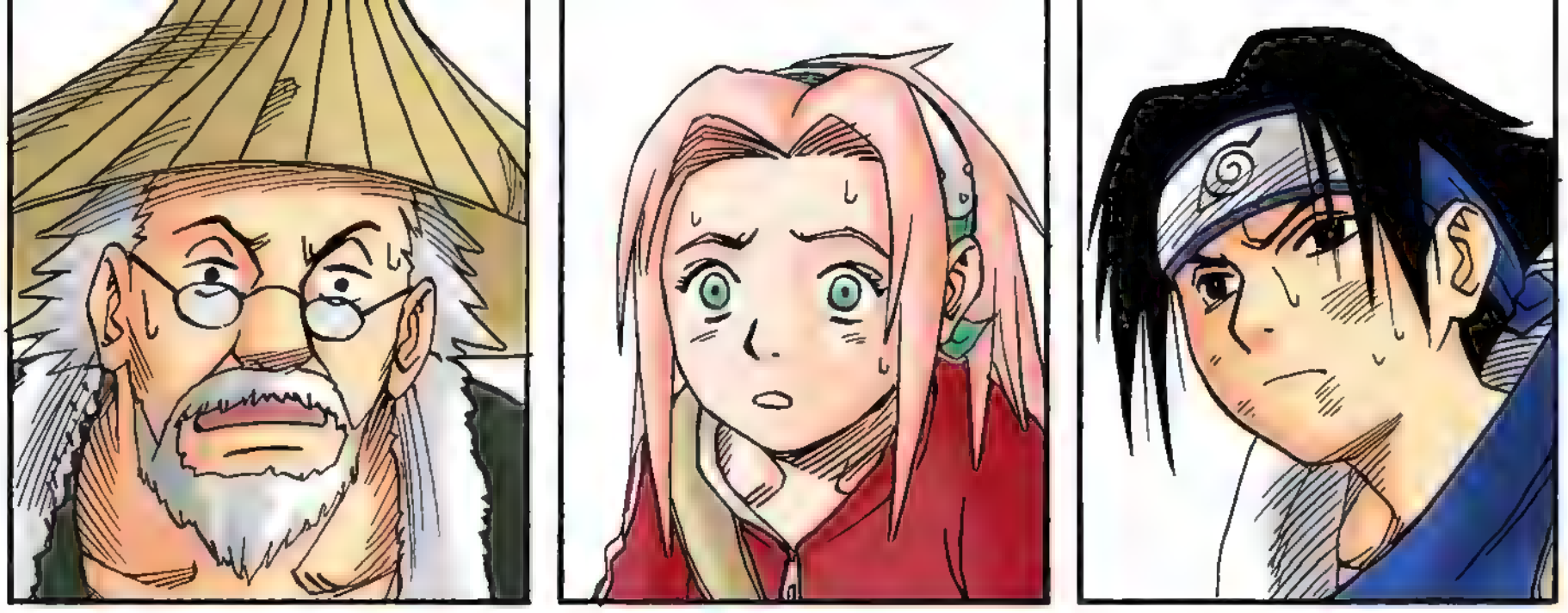

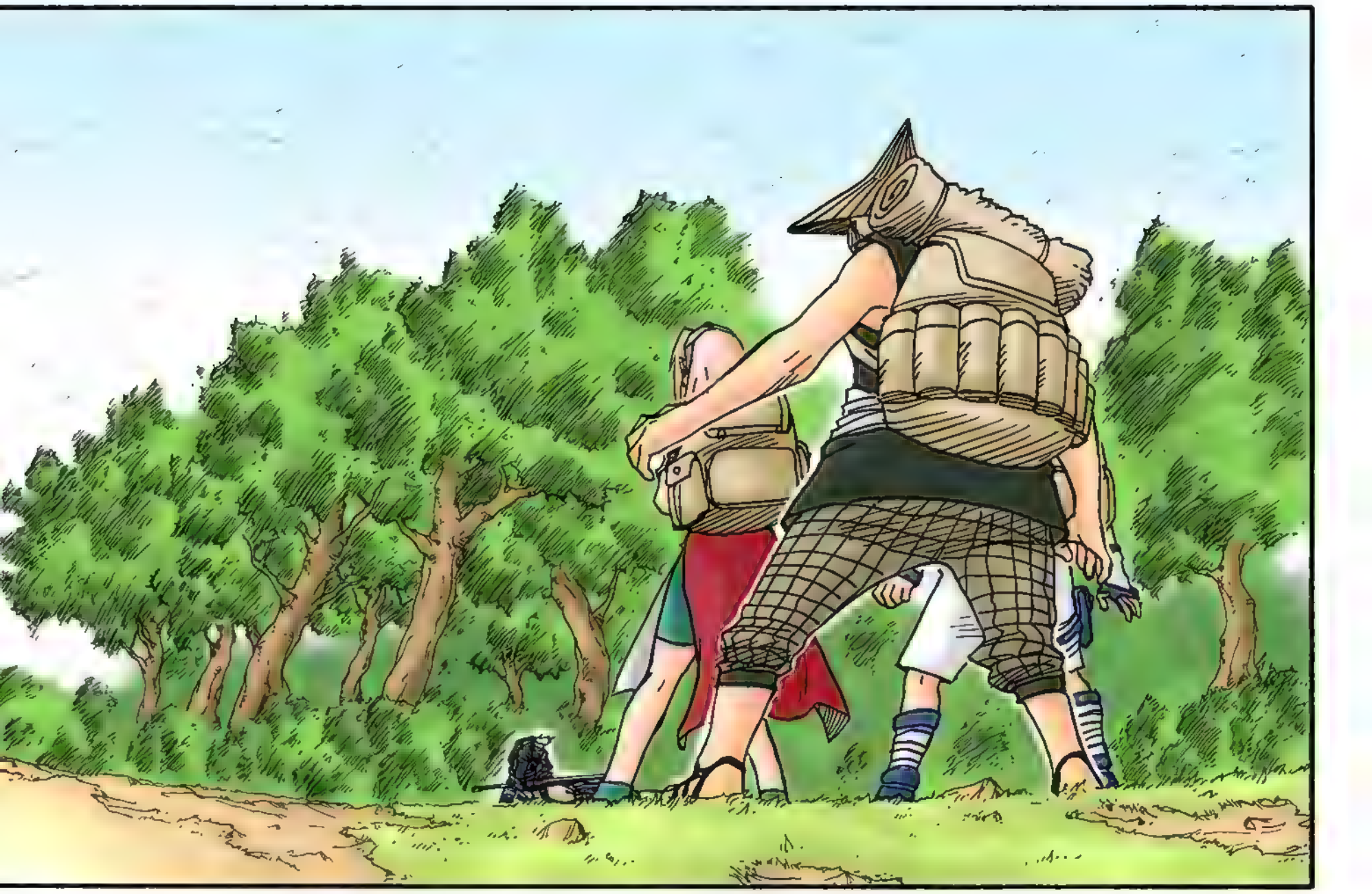

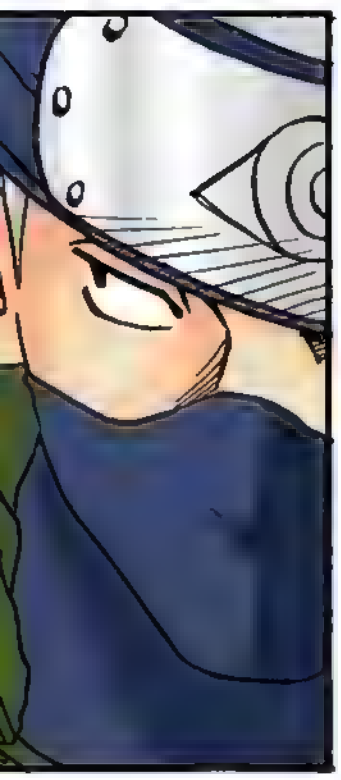

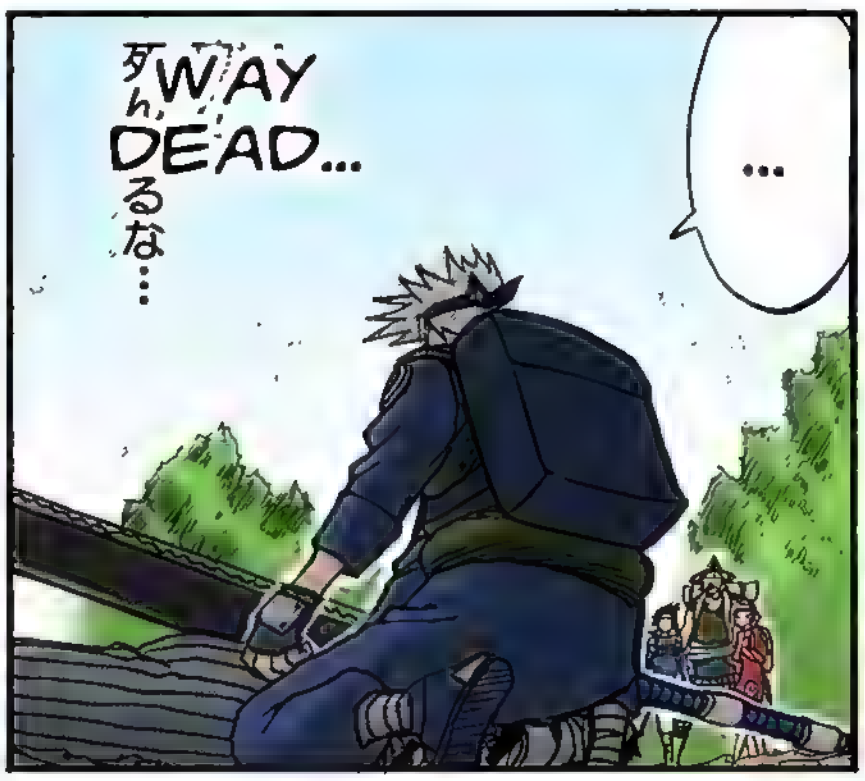

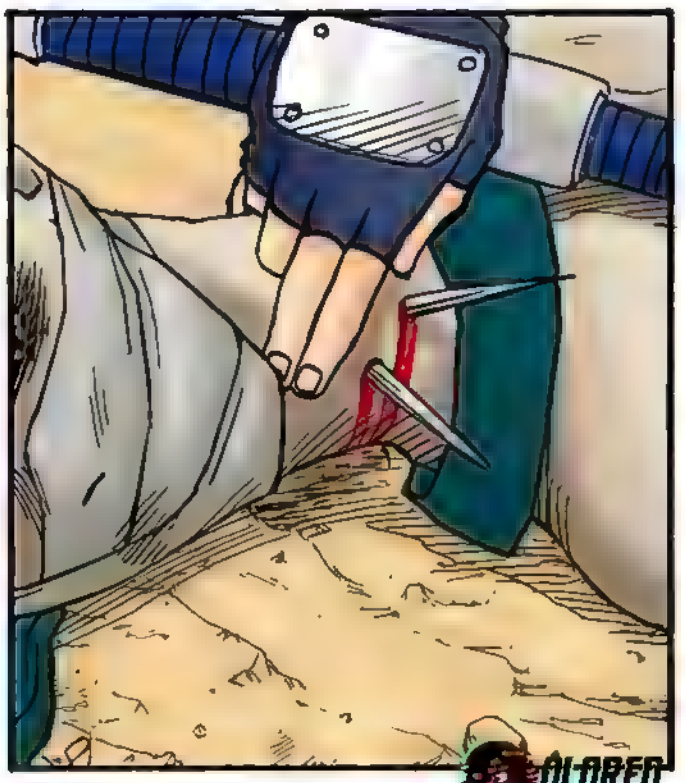

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... BUT AREN'T YOU A SHINOBI HUNTER FROM THE VILLAGE HIDDEN IN THE MIST?

THE MASK IS FAMILIAR... CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG...

...I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND MY INTERFERING,

BUT I WANTED THE SATISFACTION... ...OF PUTTING ZABUZA OUT OF HIS MISERY MYSELF!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

A SHINOBI HUNTER?

WELL, AREN'T YOU THE SMART ONE?!

...

...HE COULDN'T BE MUCH OLDER THAN NARUTO OR MY OTHER STUDENTS, YET...

...JUDGING BY HIS SIZE AND THE TIMBRE OF HIS VOICE...

...HE'S ALREADY A FULL-FLEDGED SHINOBI HUNTER!

I AM INDEED, A MEMBER OF THE ELITE TRACKING UNIT FROM THE VILLAGE HIDDEN IN THE MIST. IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY --AND OUR ART--TO HUNT DOWN AND DEAL WITH THR ROGUES AND THE OUTLAWS...

SKFF

HE'S NOT YOUR AVERAGE KID, THAT'S FOR SURE!
いね

...

!

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WHO ARE YOU?!!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!!

!

RELAX, NARUTO, HE'S NOT AN ENEMY.

スッ

!

!

...WHO WASN'T EXACTLY A PUSHOVER...

--HE KILLED ZABUZA...

THAT'S NOT WHAT I ASKED--! I MEAN... WHAT I MEAN IS --

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LIKE IT WAS NOTHING! WHAT, DO WE SUCK OR SOMETHING?

WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?!

...BUT STILL GOT TAKEN OUT BY A GUY WHO'S ONLY ABOUT MY AGE!

ポフ

...BUT IT'S A FACT...

...YOU'LL HAVE TO LIVE WITH.

WELL, YOU HAVE MY SYMPATHY. I CAN SEE WHERE A THING LIKE THAT WOULD BE HARD TO ACCEPT

KRUNCH

OH.

... AND STRONGER THAN ME.

...

THIS PROBABLY WON'T BE THE LAST TIME WE RUN INTO A KID WHO'S BOTH YOUNGER THAN YOU..

!

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...

ズ〃

WELL THEN, I MUST BE OFF.

フッ

HE'S GONE!!!

...AND THE REMAINS MUST BE DISPOSED OF...

...LEST THEY GIVE UP SECRETS TO OUR FOES.

...YOUR BATTLE IS OVER, FOR NOW...

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LET'S PUT OUR BEST FEET FORWARD!

NOW! WE STILL HAVE TO ESCORT MR. TAZUNA THE REST OF THE WAY TO HIS HOME.

SHF

SIGH

BUT NEVER MIND. YOU CAN LICK YOUR WOUNDS AT MY HOUSE.

HA HA HAH!! YOU POOR KIDS. YOU MUST BE SO HUMILIATED!!

...!...! MUST HAVE USED THE SHARINGAN TOO MUCH... 写輪眼 な…

I CAN'T BUDGE... 体 が 動 か な い…

MASTER KAKASHI-!!

WHAT?! HUH...?!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

ドサ…

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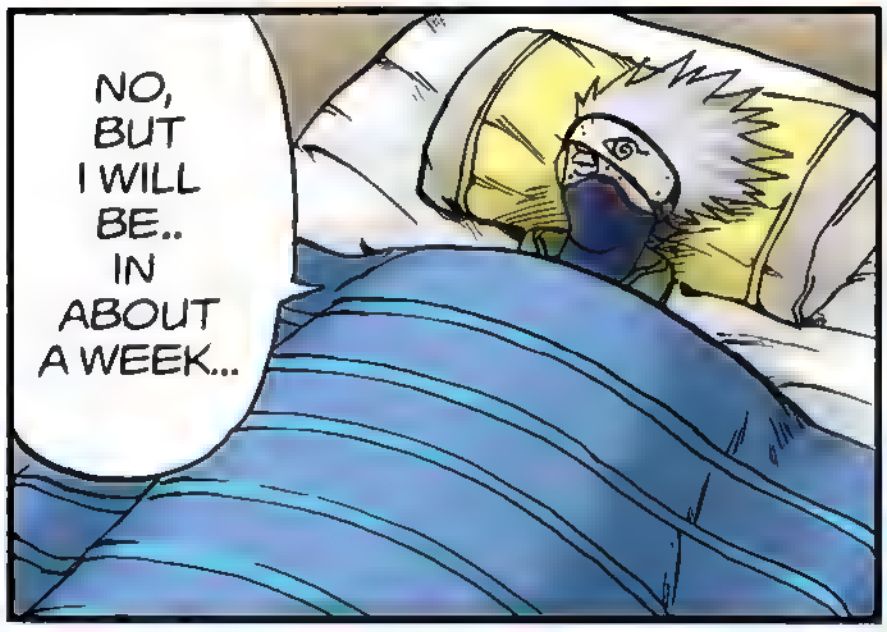

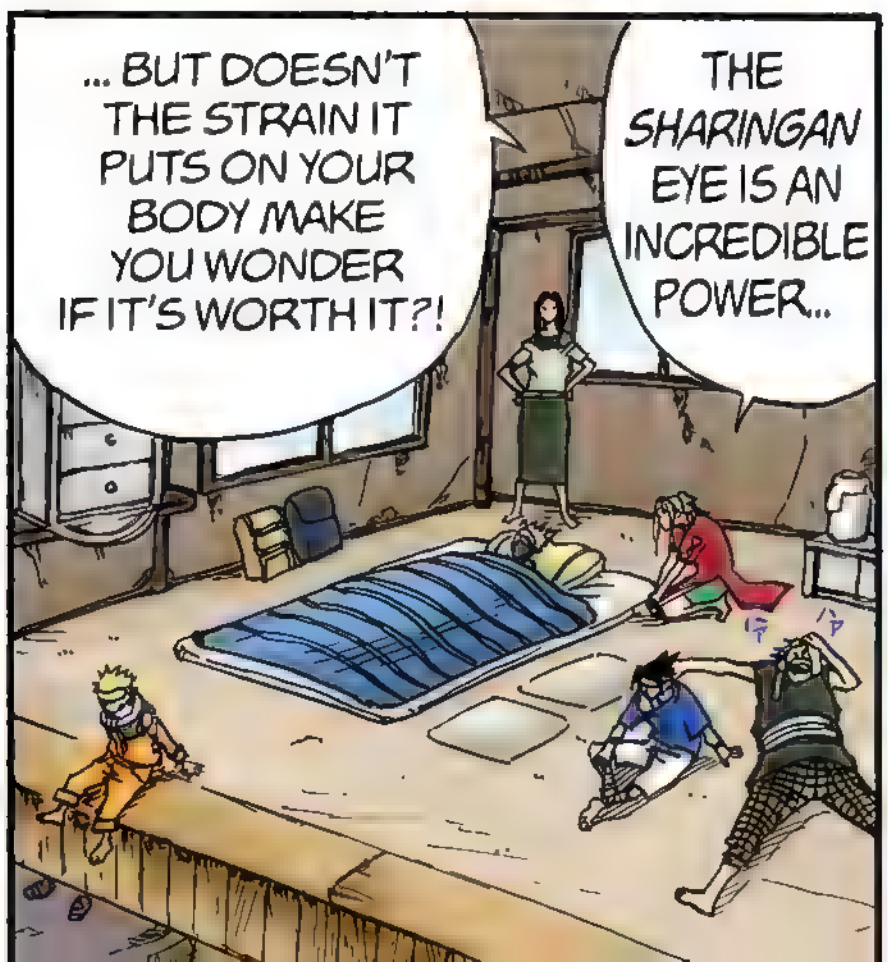

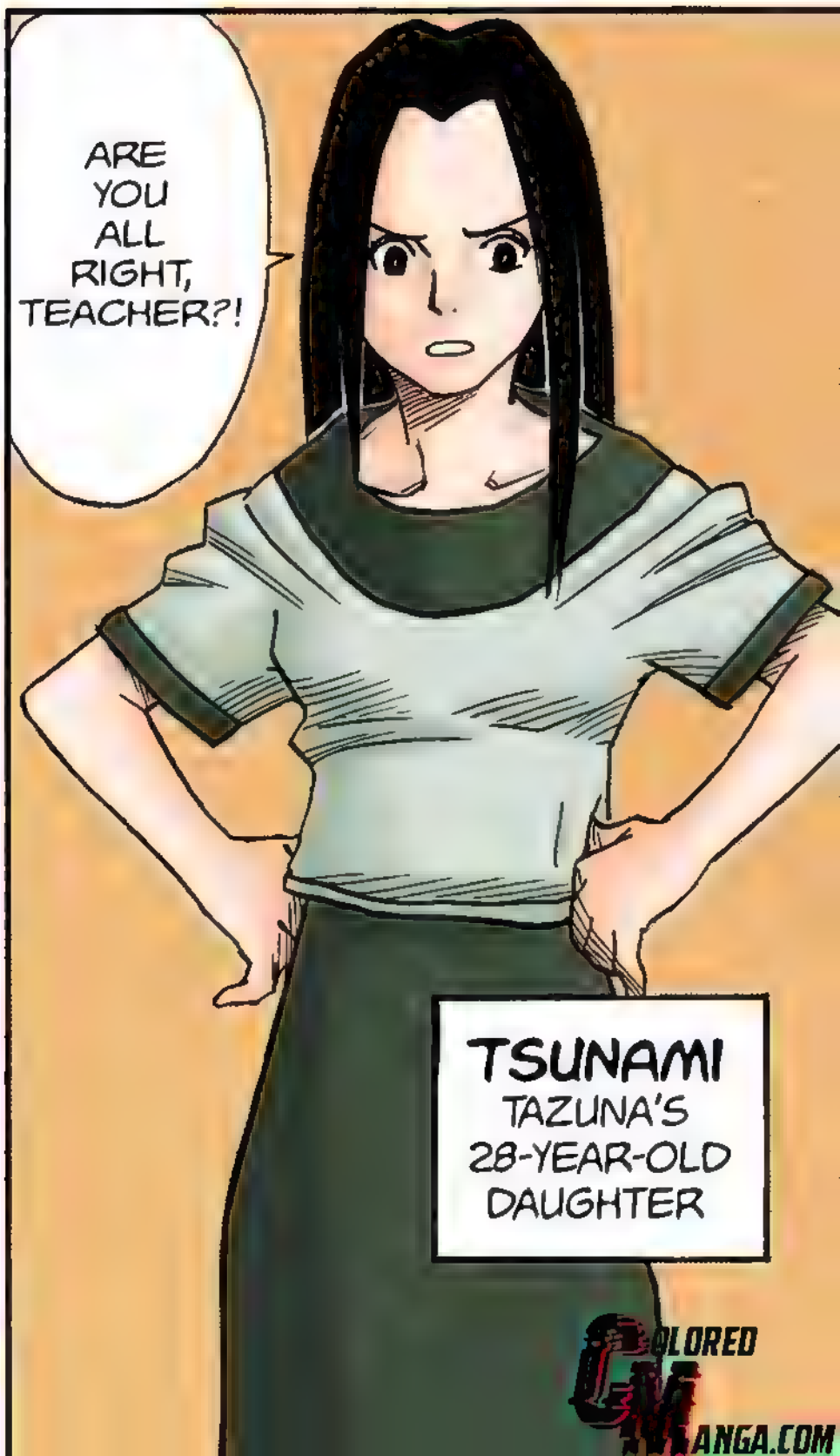

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I CAN'T GET MY MIND OFF THAT MASKED KID...

... SO WE CAN PROBABLY RELAX FOR A WHILE...

THIS TIME, YOU TOOK DOWN YOUR STRONGEST FOE YET...

THEIR UNIT IS CODE-NAMED THE "UNDERTAKER SQUAD",

BECAUSE THEY DISPOSE OF CORPSES SO THOROUGHLY, IT'S AS THOUGH THEY NEVER EXISTED...

THE SHINOBI HUNTERS ALL WEAR THEM....

THAT MASK IS WORN BY THE MOST ELITE AND SECRET NINJA FROM THE VILLAGE HIDDEN IN THE MIST...

IN THE WORST CASE, THE ENEMY MIGHT GAIN ENOUGH INFORMATION TO BE ABLE TO DUPLICATE AND MASTER THAT POWER.

IN THE SAME WAY, WHEN I DIE, IF AN ENEMY WERE TO TAKE POSSESSION OF MY REMAINS, THE CORPSE WOULD REVEAL ALL OF THE ANATOMICAL IDIOSYNCRACIES UNIQUE TO POSSESSORS OF THE *SHARINGAN* EYE...

...EVEN THE INGREDIENTS OF ANY DRUGS OR POTIONS THAT BODY CONSUMED BECOME AN OPEN BOOK.

EVEN AFTER DEATH, A SHINOBI'S CORPSE MAY YIELD UP ITS SECRETS, EXPOSING THE SECRETS OF THE SKILLS IT HAD MASTERED, AS WELL AS RETAINING THE AURA OF THE *CHAKRAS* IT WAS STEEPED IN IN THE NINJA'S NATIVE LANDS...

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...IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE SECRETS OF THEIR HOME VILLAGE FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD.

BASICALLY, SHINOBI HUNTERS SPECIALIZE IN TRACKING DOWN AND ELIMINATING ROGUE NINJA AND OBLITERATING THEIR REMAINS...

NINJA CORPSES TELL TOO MANY TALES.

THAT'S SO CREEPY...!!!

SO, ZABUZA'S CORPSE WILL BE DISMEMBERED AND DESTROYED?

THAT'S HOW NINJA LEAVE THE WORLD...

SILENTLY AND WITHOUT A TRACE.

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FIRST, I'LL REMOVE THE WRAPPINGS AROUND THE MOUTH SO THE BLOOD CAN DRAIN OUT, AND THEN...

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I CAN DO IT MYSELF...

ENOUGH!

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AWAKE ALREADY?

WELL NOW...

GENTLY, PLEASE, ZABUZA, SIR. IF YOU PULL THOSE OUT ANY WHICH WAY, YOU REALLY WILL KILL YOURSELF!

HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP THAT GHOULISH MASK ON?! TAKE IT OFF!

YOU HAVE ALL THE FINESSE...

...OF A BUTCHER...

POK

ZEEY!

AND IT WAS ALSO USEFUL FOR MY MONKEY PANTOMIME ROUTINE...

OLD HABITS DIE HARD...

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BUT YOU ARE SUCH A SADISTIC LITTLE BRAT...

YOU NEEDN'T HAVE TARGETED THE VULNERABLE AREAS IN THE NECK JUST TO PUT ME INTO A DEATHLIKE TRANCE... ANY NUMBER OF OTHER POINTS ON MY BODY WOULD HAVE DONE!

THEY'D HAVE KILLED YOU IF I HADN'T INTERVENED...

ガッ

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...

よし!

EXACTLY!

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I CAN MORE PRECISELY TARGET THE POINTS --

AND BESIDES, THE NECK IS SO MUCH LESS MUSCULAR THAN THE REST OF THE BODY...

I DIDN'T WANT TO MAR YOUR PERFECT BODY, ZABUZA, SIR.

BUT OF COURSE, SOMEONE LIKE YOU WILL RECOVER MUCH MORE QUICKLY, RIGHT?

...THAT WILL LEAVE AN ORDINARY TARGET PARALYZED AND APPARENTLY DEAD FOR A FULL WEEK...

WELL, I'M ONLY A CHILD.

HEH...

...NO DOUBT, IT'S WHY I LIKE YOU.

...YOU ARE SO INNOCENT, SO GUILELESS...

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...THE MIST HAS LIFTED...

WITHOUT US EVEN NOTICING...

NEXT TIME... I'LL BREAK THE *SHARINGAN* SPELL!

...WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT?

NEXT TIME...

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WHUMP

EEEEEK-!

!!

...

WE ALMOST GOT TO SEE WHAT'S UNDER THE MASK!

YOU IDIOT! DON'T BE SUCH A KLUTZ!

OH, MASTER KAKASHI, ARE YOU AWAKE?

THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE OVERLOOKED! SOMETHING BIG!

なにかを…

…ている

IT'S ODD. I KNOW THAT SCUMBAG ZABUZA IS DEAD... BUT STILL CAN'T SHAKE THE STRONGEST FEELING...

…ぬれ

…というのに…

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ナンバー 17：闘いの準備!! (たたか じゅんび)

PREPARATIONS FOR BATTLE!!

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SOMETHING JUST DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT...
なんだ…

COULD IT BE...? IS IT POSSIBLE I'VE OVERLOOKED SOMETHING?!
まさか落とした!?ことが

...

...THE SHINOBI HUNTERS WHO MANAGE CORPSE DISPOSALS ARE SUPPOSED TO DESTROY THE BODIES OF THOSE THEY KILL AT ONCE, RIGHT ON THE SPOT.

HMM...

OF COURSE...

WHAT'S WRONG, MASTER KAKASHI?

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HOW DID THE KID IN THE MASK DISPOSE OF ZABUZA'S CORPSE?

DON'T YOU GET IT?

HUH?

SO WHAT?

YES, HE DID...

EVEN THOUGH ALL HE NEEDED TO TAKE HOME AS PROOF HE'D MADE THE KILL WAS THE HEAD!

HE TOOK THE BODY WITH HIM.

HOW SHOULD I KNOW?!

!!

SENBON...: ACUPUNCTURE NEEDLES だの千本(せんぼん)...:

...

AND... THERE IS A MYSTERY SURROUNDING THE WEAPONS THAT THE HUNTER USED TO DISPATCH HIS PREY....

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NO WAY...

...

WHAT THE HELL NONSENSE ARE YOU ALL MUMBLING ON ABOUT...?

?

YES... WAY!

ZABUZA IS STILL ALIVE!

THAT IT'S LIKELY...

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?

BUT, MASTER KAKASHI— YOU CHECKED TO BE SURE ZABUZA WAS DEAD, DIDN'T YOU?!!

WHAT— THE— HECK ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

... A DEATHLIKE TRANCE COULD HAVE CREATED A VERY CONVINCING ILLUSION OF THE REAL THING...

I MADE SURE OF IT...

BUT...

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...IF THEY HIT A VITAL SPOT. IF NOT, THE MORTALITY RATE IS SURPRISINGLY LOW...

AND REMEMBER, THEY WERE ORIGINALLY DESIGNED AS MEDICAL TREATMENT TOOLS.

THOSE ACUPUNCTURE NEEDLE WEAPONS THAT SHINOBI HUNTER USED CAN BE DEADLY...

FIRST OF ALL, THE MASKED BOY WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF LUGGING OFF ZABUZA'S HEAVY CARCASS...

SECONDLY, THE ACUPUNCTURE NEEDLES HE USED AS WEAPONS, WHILE POTENTIALLY DEADLY, CAN ALSO BE USED TO INFLICT NON-MORTAL INJURY...

THESE TWO POINTS SUGGEST THAT THE KID'S OBJECTIVE WAS TO GIVE THE ILLUSION OF KILLING ZABUZA...

SHINOBI HUNTERS AND ALL MEMBERS OF ANY VILLAGE'S CORPSE DISPOSAL SQUAD MUST POSSESS AN INTIMATE AND THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY.

IT WOULD BE SIMPLE FOR ONE OF THEM TO PLACE A PERSON INTO A NEAR-DEATH STATE.

SHINOBI HUNTERS ARE SUPPOSED TO HUNT OUTLAW SHINOBI, RIGHT?

AREN'T YOU JUST COMPLICATING THINGS BY OVER-THINKING THEM?

THINGS MAY BE JUST THE WAY THEY SEEMED... BUT WE HAVE TO CONSIDER THE OTHER POSSIBILITY.

...WHILE HE RESCUED HIM.

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...TO BEING CAUGHT COMPLETELY UNPREPARED. AND PREPARATION IS A SHINOBI'S MOST IMPORTANT SKILL!!

UUUUSUALLY... BUT IGNORING SOMETHING THAT SMELLS THIS FISHY IS A GREAT FIRST STEP...

!

OH WELL! WHETHER ZABUZA IS DEAD OR ALIVE...

...THERE MAY STILL BE MORE AND EVEN DEADLIER NINJA IN THE SERVICE OF YOUR ENEMY, GATÔ.

HEH HEH...

?

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

MASTER! YOU SAID, "PREPARATION IS A SHINOBI'S MOST IMPORTANT SKILL," BUT RIGHT NOW YOU CAN'T EVEN MOVE.

...

INTERESTING... NARUTO SEEMS EXCITED AT THE POSSIBILITY THAT ZABUZA SURVIVED.

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I'M GOING TO INCREASE YOUR TRAINING SCHEDULE!

OUR OPPONENT IS A NINJA SO POWERFUL THAT EVEN WITH YOUR SHARINGAN MIRROR-EYE POWER, HE ALMOST DEFEATED YOU!

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO? GET US ALL KILLED?!!

BUT MASTER KAKASHI, WHAT WILL A LITTLE EXTRA TRAINING NOW MATTER WITH WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST?!!

WHAT?!... TRAINING...?!!

YOU'VE GROWN THE MOST!!

!

ESPECIALLY **YOURS,** NARUTO!!

YOU THREE ALL ARE MATURING, PROGRESSING RAPIDLY, YOUR POWERS GROWING EXPONENTIALLY...

AND WHEN I WAS BELEAGUERED, SAKURA... THINK ABOUT WHO IT WAS THAT RESCUED ME...

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...NARUTO...? WELL, HE SEEMS A LOT MORE GROWN-UP THAN HE USED TO, BUT...

EVEN IF ZABUZA IS ALIVE, HOW CAN WE JUST TRAIN WITHOUT KNOWING WHEN HE MAY RETURN AND STRIKE AGAIN?

BUT, MASTER!!

...THE SKILLS I TEACH YOU NOW WILL BE AN INTERIM THING ONLY, TO TIDE US OVER UNTIL I RECOVER ENOUGH TO TAKE OVER...

BUT THAT BEING SAID...

SO WE'LL TRAIN WHILE WE'RE WAITING!

COULD BE FUN!

...IT IS QUITE SOME TIME BEFORE THEIR BODY RETURNS TO ITS PREVIOUS STATE OF HEALTH AND READINESS.

AN EXCELLENT QUESTION...

BUT ONCE A PERSON HAS BEEN PLACED INTO A NEAR-DEATH TRANCE...

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WHO THE HECK ARE YOU--!!

!?

!!

IT WON'T BE FUN FOR **YOU.**

INARI!! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!!

WELCOME HOME... GRANDPA...

...

THEY'RE THE ESTEEMED NINJA WHO BROUGHT OUR GRANDFATHER SAFELY HOME!

INARI, GREET OUR GUESTS PROPERLY!

IT'S ALLRIGHT, RIGHT INARI?

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LISTEN, YOU LITTLE TWERP--!!!

!!

BUT, MAMA, THEY'RE ALL GONNA DIE.

PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, NARUTO, HE'S JUST A LITTLE BOY.

YOU BRAT--!!

...

...

NO ONE CAN BEAT GATÔ AND HIS MEN.

GATÔ? "GATEAU"? THIS GUY'S NAMED "CHOCOLATE"! YOU CAN'T SERIOUSLY EXPECT ME TO BE AFRAID OF THAT!

-:HMMF!:-

I'M A SUPERHERO WHO'LL SOME-DAY BECOME THE MOST EXTREME NINJA. MY NAME WILL BE HOKAGE, THE FIRE SHADOW!

RIGHT. HEY, PAY ATTENTION, LITTLE GUY.

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THERE'S NO SUCH THING!!!

"HERO"? YOU'RE DUMB!

...

IF YOU DON'T WANNA DIE, GO HOME NOW...

I SAID, QUIT IT!!

プチー!

!!

WH- WHAT--?!?

I'M GOING TO WATCH THE OCEAN FROM MY ROOM...

SSHHF

WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO, INARI?

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PLEASE FORGIVE HIM...

SLAM

...

AHA!

I'M GONNA GIVE HIM SUCH A HIT!!!

WHERE'D THAT LITTLE BRAT GO?

泣な..HE'S CRYING!!

!?

!!

SNIFF

SOB

SOB

SOB

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-SOB-

-DRIP-

-SOB-

-SOB-

-SOB-

DADDY...!

-SOB-

-SOB-

-SOB-

-SOB-

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SO, IT'S DECIDED. THE NEW TRAINING REGIMEN BEGINS TODAY!

...LET'S DISCUSS THE BASIS OF YOUR NINJA POWERS... THE BODY ENERGIES KNOWN AS *CHAKRAS*.

BUT FIRST...

YEAH!!

AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A NINJA? DID YOU SLEEP THROUGH EVERY CLASS YOU EVER TOOK?

I THINK I'VE HEARD OF THIS BEFORE...

UH... RIGHT.

SO, UM... *CHAKRA*... WHAT ARE THOSE AGAIN?!

THIS IS **SO** NOT GOOD...

WHY DON'T YOU SAY I GOT IN SOME REALLY HIGH QUALITY NAP TIME?

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PAY ATTENTION, NARUTO!! IT'S A PAIN, BUT I'LL TRY TO KEEP IT SIMPLE!

TRY TO FIND SOME STORAGE SPACE FOR THIS INFORMATION SOMEWHERE IN THAT SHINY, SMOOTH BRAIN OF YOURS.

SAKURA!!

ALL RIGHT!

~THE LOVELY NINJA MAIDEN SAKURA EXPLAINS IT ALL FOR YOU~

THE STORY OF CHAKRAS!!

CHAKRAS ARE, TO PUT IT SIMPLY, THE ENERGIES THAT A *SHINOBI* REQUIRES IN ORDER TO PERFORM *NINJUTSU*. BASICALLY, THESE ENERGIES ARE:

(1) THOSE OF THE BODY, DRAWN FROM EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THE APPROXIMATELY 13 TRILLION CELLS THAT ARE BELIEVED TO MAKE UP THE HUMAN BODY...

(2) THOSE OF THE MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL ENERGY ACQUIRED OVER THE COURSE OF MUCH TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE...

TOGETHER, THOSE TWO FORMS OF ENERGY ARE WHAT MAKE UP THE *CHAKRAS*.

IN EFFECT, ALL THE ARTS AND TECHNIQUES OF THE *SHINOBI* ARE BORN OF A COMBINATION OF THOSE 2 ENERGIES, BROUGHT FORTH FROM THE BODY AND THE SPIRIT—IN WHAT IS CALLED "MANIPULATING THE *CHAKRAS*"—AND FOCUSED IN THE MYSTIC PROCESS KNOWN AS "WEAVING THE SIGNS."

SIGN

印

BODY

身

MIND

精

術

NINJUTSU

"FIRE STYLE", FOR EXAMPLE...

"LOVELY NINJA MAIDEN...?!"

READ AND REPEAT UNTIL YOU FIND IT STARTS TO MAKE SENSE...

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I DON'T DO SO WELL WITH LONG EXPLANATIONS, BUT IF YOU COULD JUST SHOW ME, MY BODY CAN LEARN IT!!!

YEAH, YEAH, WHATEVER!!

4th!

"MASTER IRUKA TAUGHT HIS STUDENTS WELL!"

AHEM

THAT'S CORRECT!

NONE OF YOU YET HAS FULL MASTERY OF YOUR CHAKRA!

WRONG--!

WE ALL ALREADY EMPLOY THE NINJA ARTS AND TECHNIQUES...

NARUTO'S RIGHT...

NOW, LISTEN...

!

WHAT?!!

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CHAKRA

MENTAL ENERGY

PHYSICAL ENERGY

REFERS TO SUMMONING PHYSICAL AND MENTAL ENERGIES AND COMBINING THEM WITHIN YOUR OWN BODY

AS SAKURA SAID, MANIPULATION OF THE *CHAKRA*...

RIGHT NOW, NONE OF YOU ARE USING YOUR *CHAKRAS* EFFECTIVELY!

雷遁 LIGHTNING

風遁 WIND

土遁 EARTH

水遁 WATER

火遁 FIRE

...AS WOULD THE MAKEUP OF ELEMENTS YOU'D NEED TO COMBINE...

DEPENDING ON WHICH TECHNIQUE YOU WISH TO EMPLOY, THE AMOUNT OF ENERGY YOU'D NEED TO ABSORB WOULD VARY...

IF YOU CAN'T MAINTAIN YOUR BALANCE, WHATEVER THE TECHNIQUE...

NO MATTER HOW GREAT THE AMOUNT OF *CHAKRA* YOU SUMMON AND MANIPULATE...

NOT ONLY WILL THE EFFECTIVENESS OF YOUR MANEUVER BE CUT IN HALF... BUT YOU COULD BLUNDER SO BADLY THE SPELL MAY NOT BE RELEASED AT ALL.

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... GO OUT ON A LIMB, AND LEARN FROM THE EXPERIENCE!

YOU LEARN TO CONTROL YOUR BODY THROUGH THE HARSHEST TRAINING...

SO...UH... WHAT DO WE DO?

ﾊﾍｯ

AND BECAUSE YOU END UP SQUANDERING YOUR ENERGIES, YOU NOT ONLY LACK THE STAMINA FOR A PROTRACTED FIGHT... BUT YOU ALSO DEVELOP SIGNIFICANT VULNERABILITIES.

HOW DO WE DO THAT?

WE CLIMB TREES!

HOW?

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デジタルカラー版

NARUTO—ナルト—

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岸本斉史

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